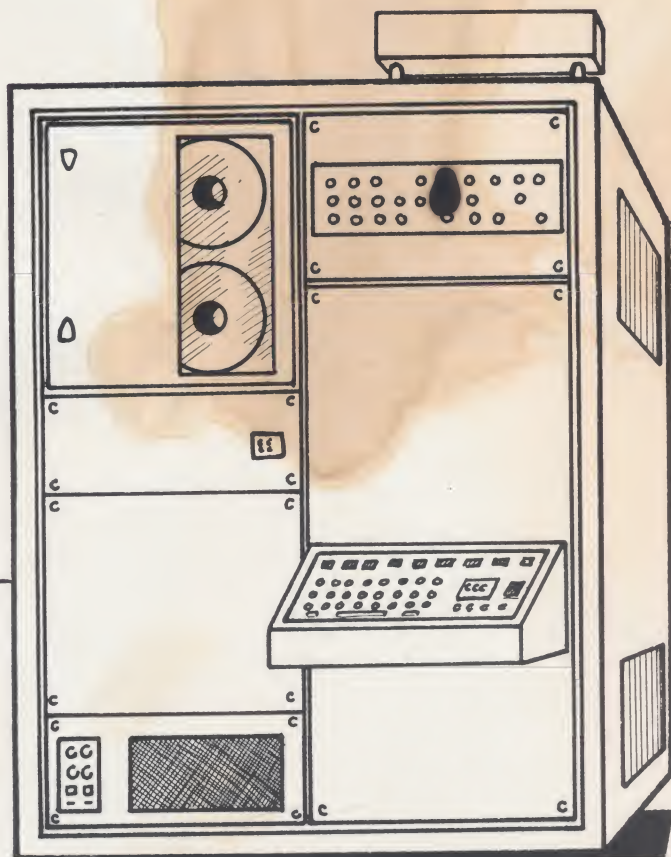


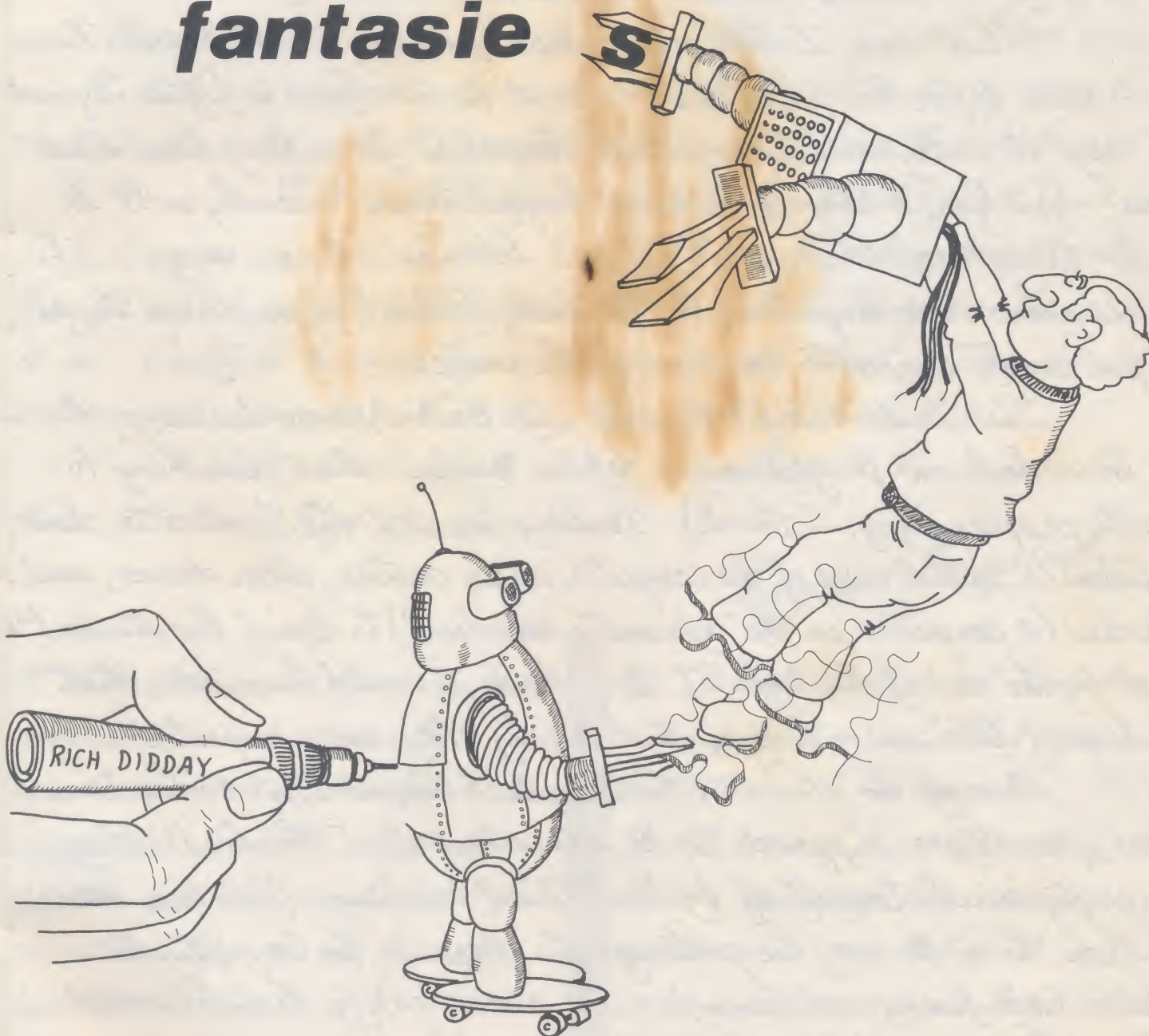
品



# FRONTICE



# ***finite state fantasie***



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CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820



The publisher has asked me to write an introduction to this collection of graphic stories by my old friend, Rich Didday. I don't really have much to say, but since Didday is in no shape right now to explain what he means, I guess I'll have to give it a go. Besides, I need the money.

What can I tell you about Didday? Not much, I guess - even before his unfortunate accident he was hard to figure. "Spaced out" says it pretty well. He was into computers for a long time and he was - Good Grief! Why am I using the past tense? Surely we'll be able to bring him back out... I hope... Let's see. Where... oh, yes. If there is some overall pattern to this book, I don't claim to see it, so I'll just make comments on some of the pieces.

The inside covers (Frontice and Backus) were drawings he did for a book on programming (John Backus had something to do with programming, I think). Didday wanted the Frontice to show the student's initial view of the computer as an austere, alien device, and the Backus (a computer in the "cybernetic meadow") to depict the student's image by the end of the book. I don't think I would have seen that if he hadn't told me - maybe that's why they were rejected.

Two of the stories (The Conceptual Computer, pp 7-15; The De-Buggers, pp 20-25) are supposed to be educational, I think. Didday was pretty much turned off by traditional teaching. You can see that from the rude way he portrays the class in The Conceptual Computer (not funny, not funny). It seems crazy that he would think cartoons would do the job better. Oh well.

The drawing on page 36 isn't really a dream - it's something he did in graduate school. In fact, I was there when the woman destined to become his ex-wife took one look, stared at him, and



said, "Are you the type who does things that are supposed to mean something?" He went into one of his moods.

He showed me Princess Batrachos (pp 16-19) right after he finished it. Seemed to expect me to see something in the name. I suppose if I had a dictionary I might look it up... then again...

Lots of the stories involve transmutations, and he planned to call the book Finite State Transformations. I don't know when or why the title was changed. I'm sure Didday didn't do it - it was his constant obsession with transmutation that got him in the mess he's in now.

I had several arguments with him about Escape (pp 37-44). It just seems morbid to me. He was always attacking people who thought whatever they believed was real, that thinking something made it so. Could be he was trying to warn people about getting so involved with computers that they lose track of their lives...

Well, that about covers everything I know about these stories. Hope you like them.

Raymond Langsford

P.S. The publisher also asked me to mention that he'd appreciate comments about this book and suggestions for books about all aspects of the study and use of computers. You can see from this book that he means it!

CONTACT

Matrix Publishers  
207 Kenyon Rd  
Champaign, Illinois 61820

P.P.S. Didday is stranded somewhere in a piece of strange looking equipment he attached to his computer. We've found some of his notes about the thing (each page has "SYMBIOSIS THROUGH TRANSMUTATION" scrawled on it), and we've uncovered some bugs in the software, but we still haven't figured out how to extract him. If you have any suggestions...

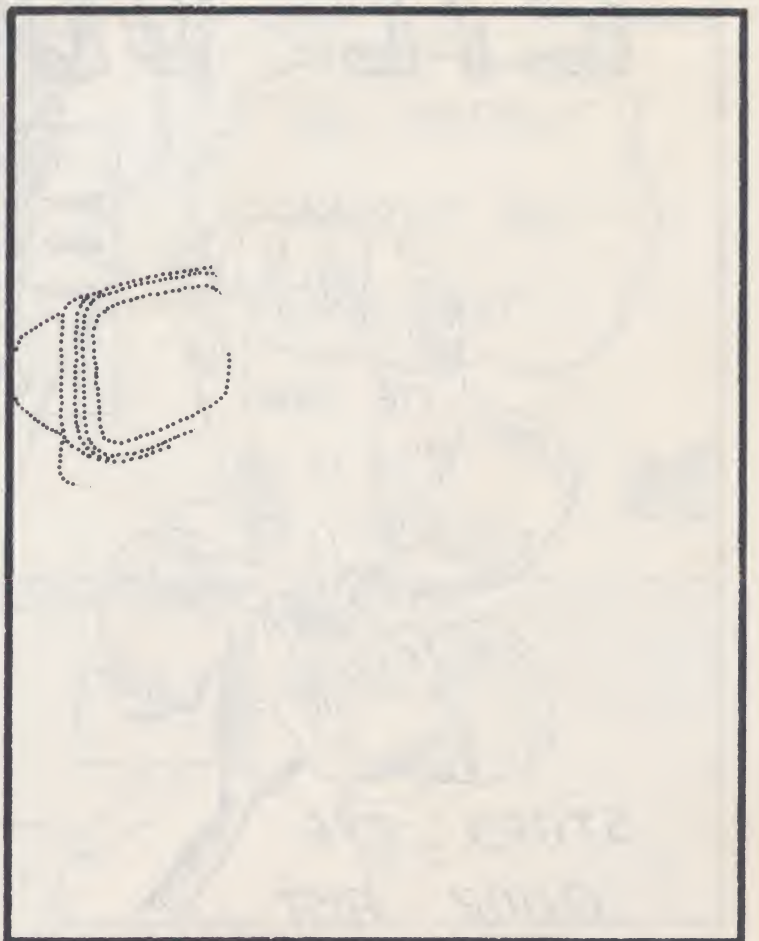


# data entry

and  
exit











recognize  
these symptoms?

DO YOU EVER COMPLAIN OF  
"DAZZLER EYES"?

DO YOUR FRIENDS SEEM  
TO AVOID YOU AFTER  
YOU'VE SPENT SEVERAL  
HOURS IN FRONT OF YOUR CRT?

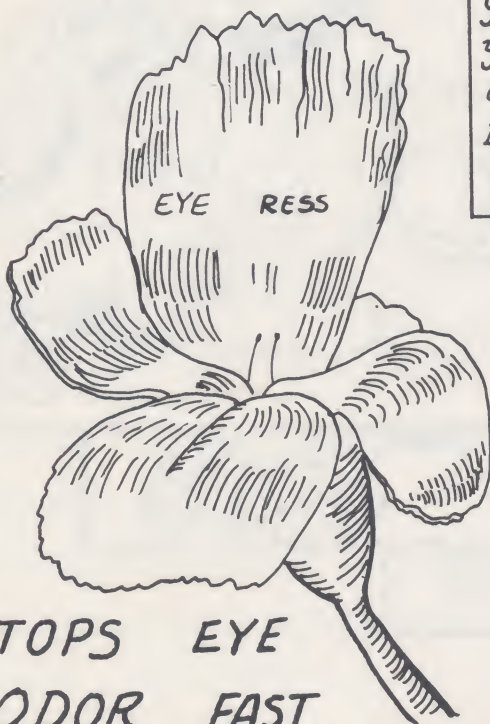
IF SO,

YOU MAY BE ONE OF

THE UNTOLD MILLIONS

WHO SUFFER THE HEARTBREAK OF

EYE ODOR



STOPS EYE  
ODOR FAST

IT'S A SCIENTIFIC FACT!  
your eyes are so close to  
your nose that you quickly  
adapt to their smell —  
But don't take the risk  
of offending others!



50¢

OFFER EXPIRES MARCH 27, 1958

50¢

SAVE

ON YOUR NEXT  
PURCHASE OF EYE RESS  
EYE DEODORANT

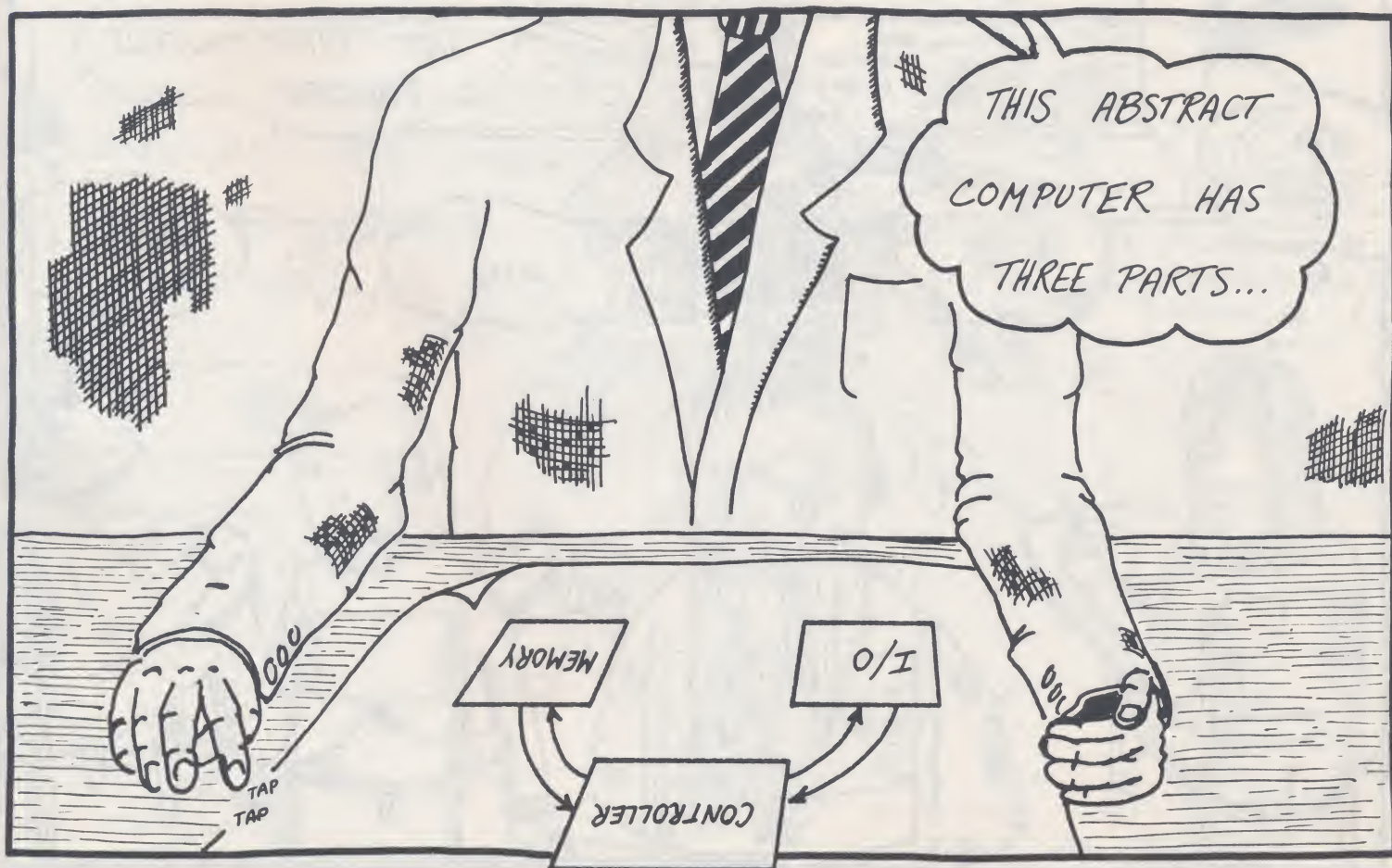
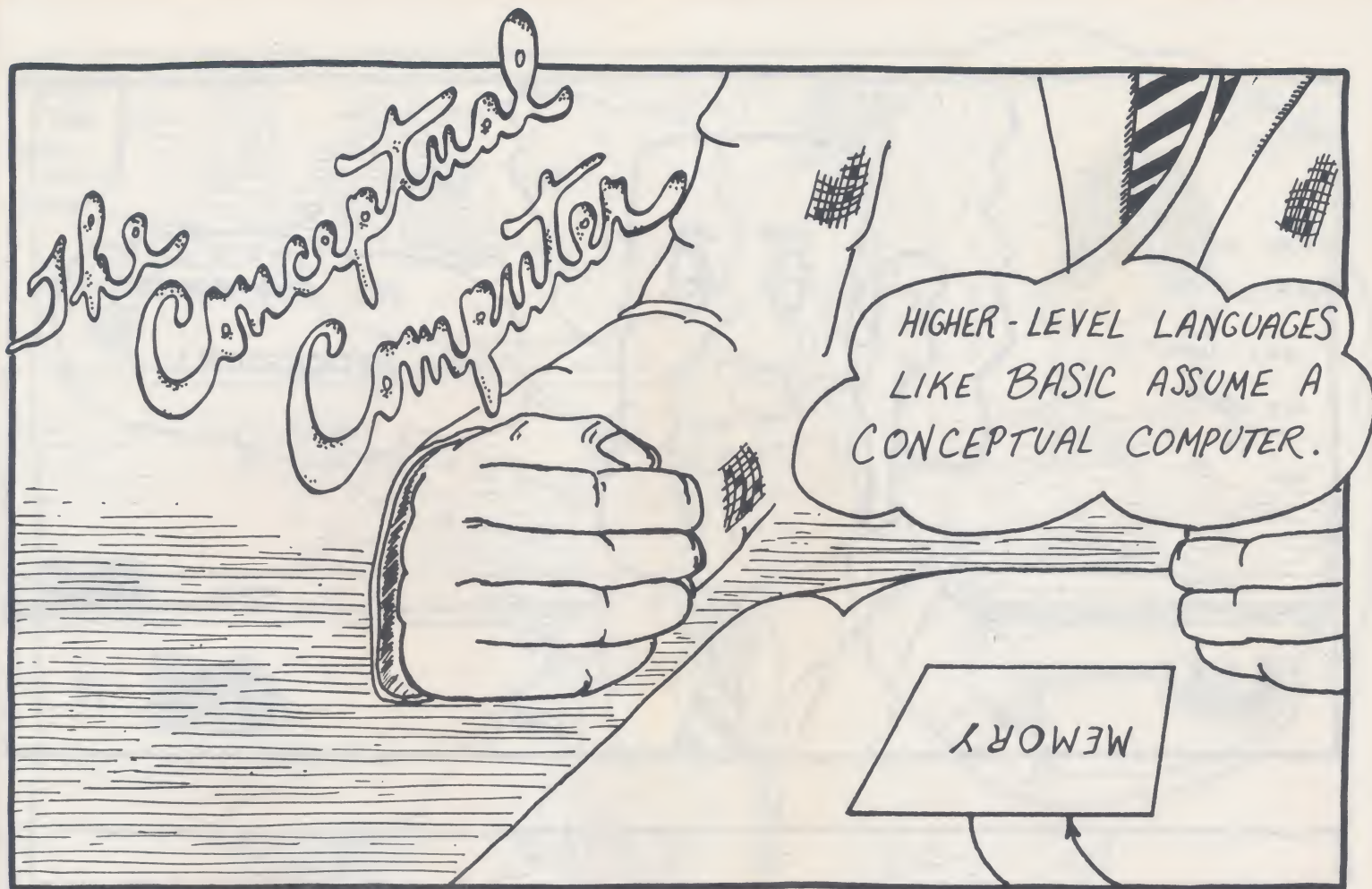
MR. MERCHANT: PLEASE HONOR THIS OR WE'LL SUE.

50¢

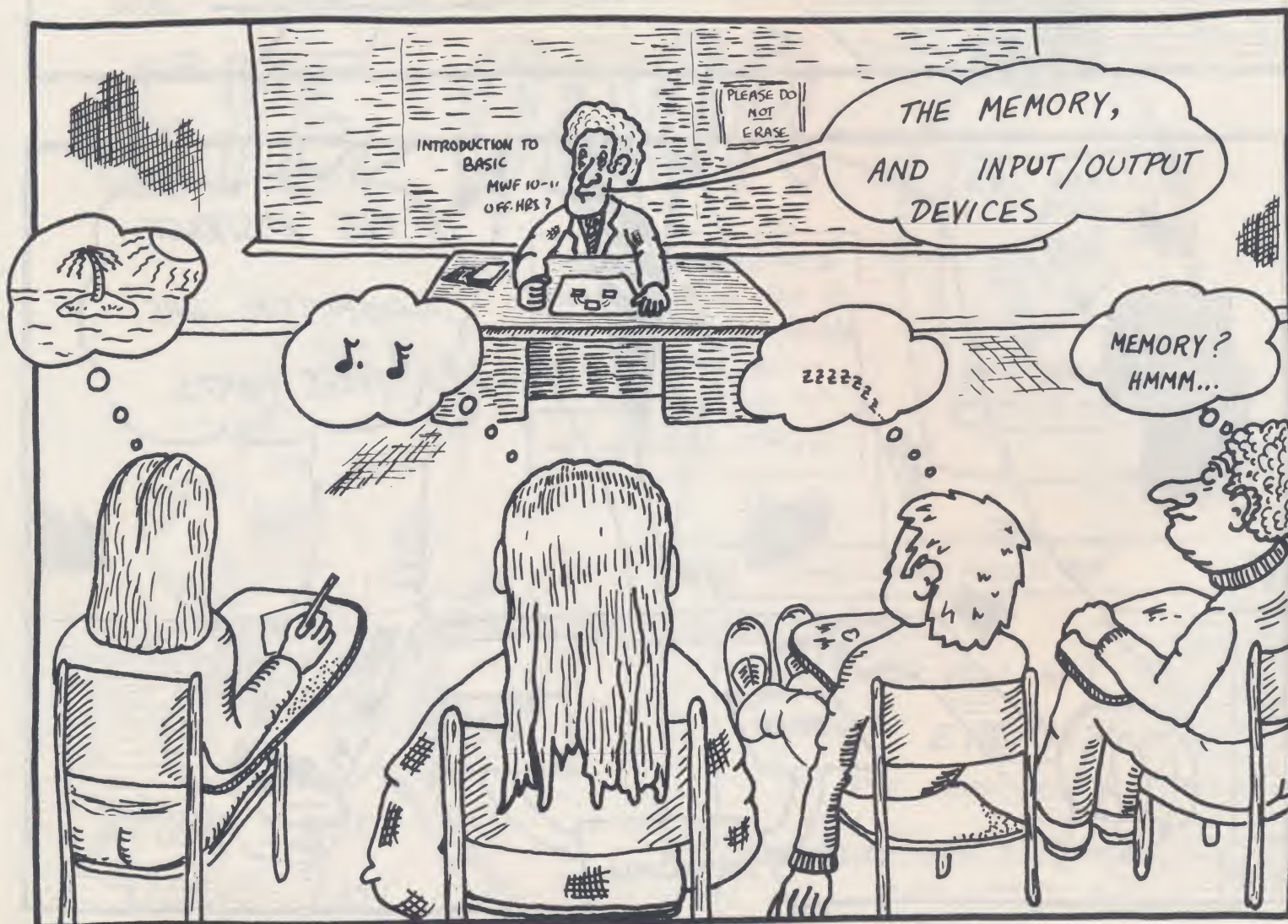
STORE COUPON

50¢

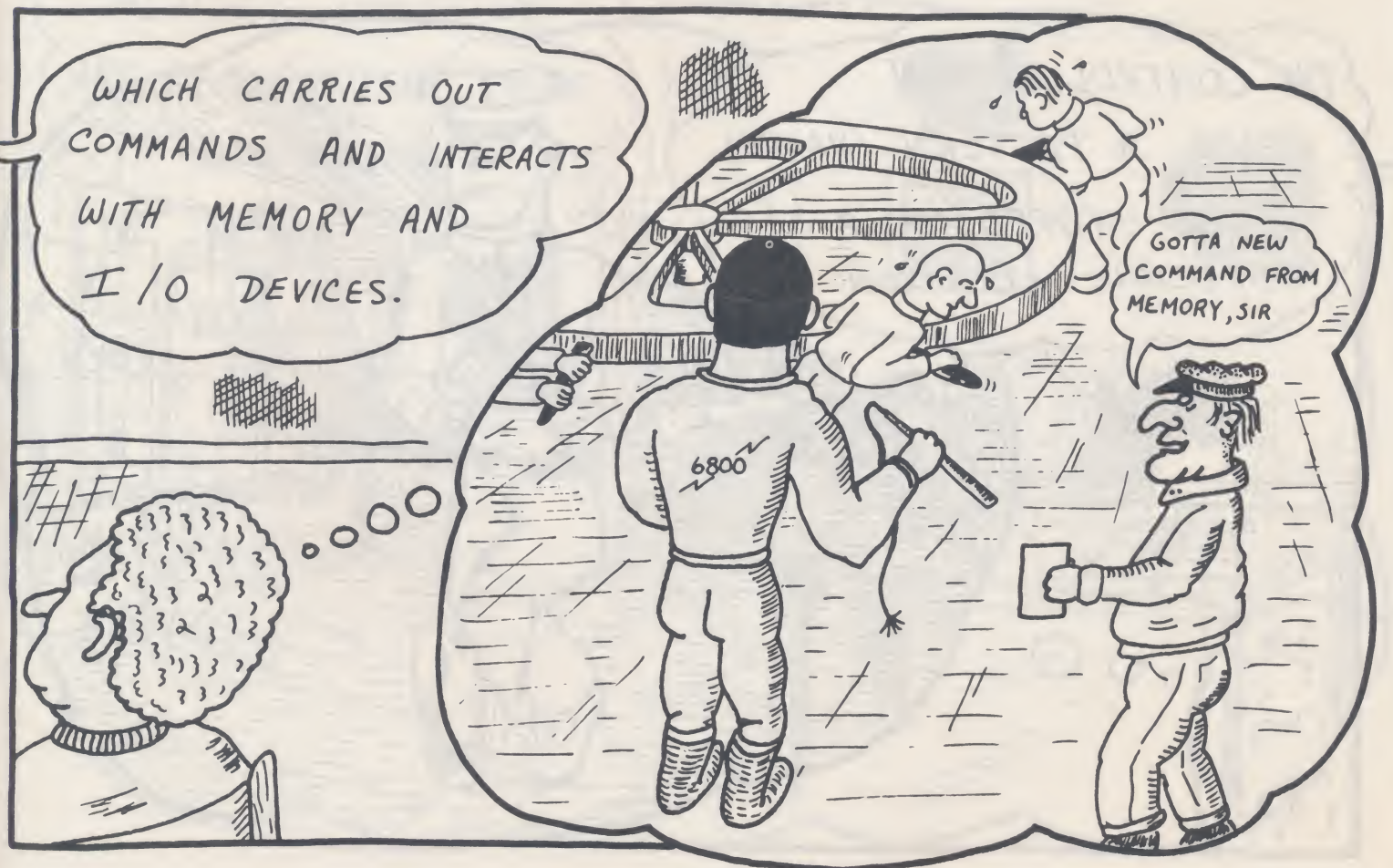






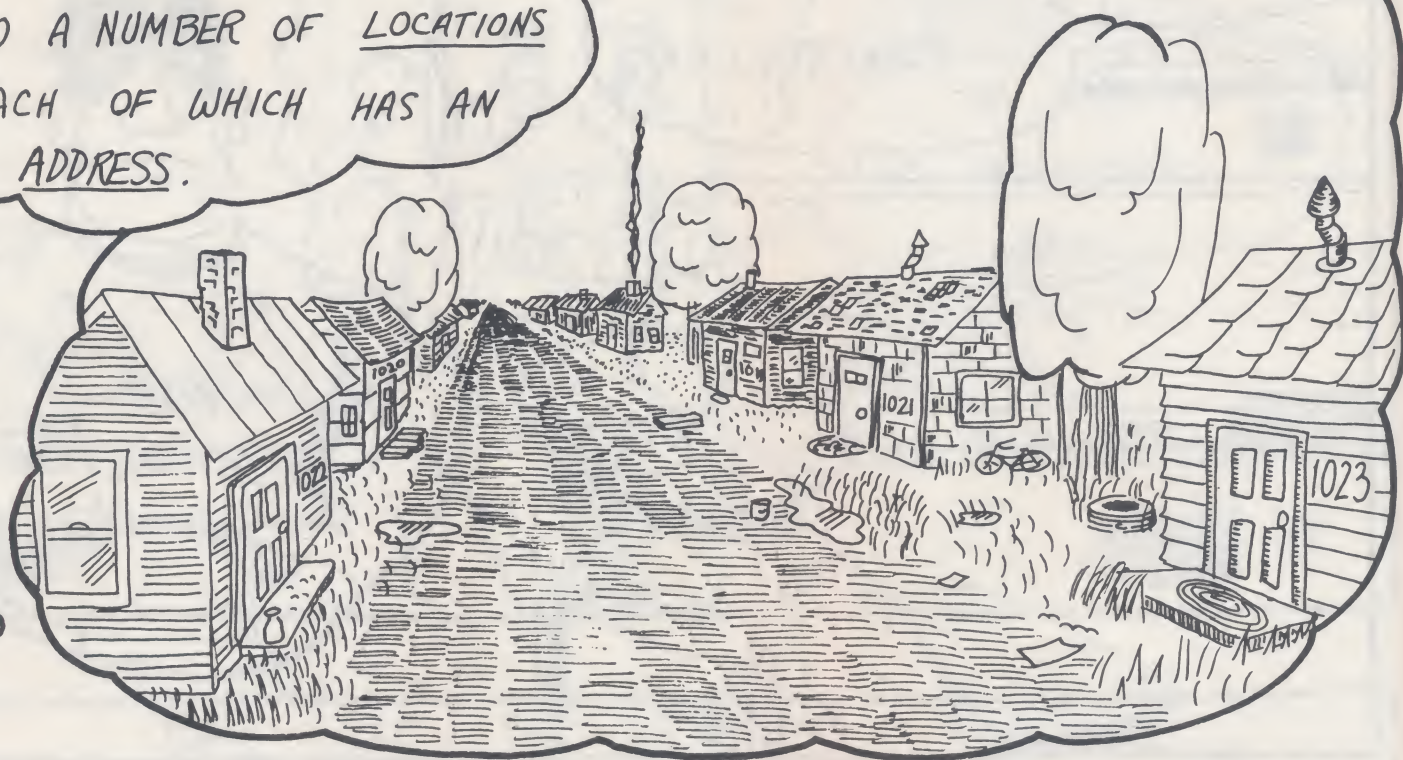




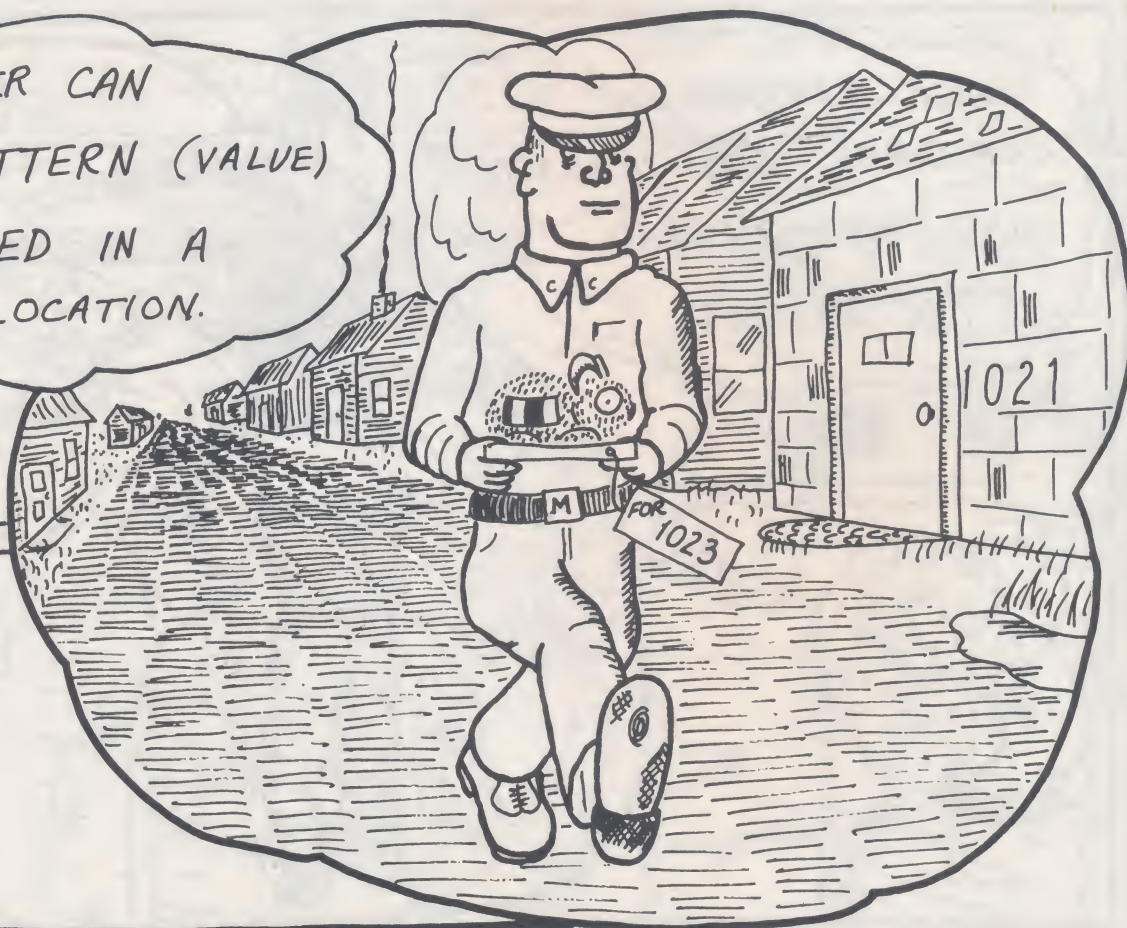




MEMORY IS ORGANIZED  
INTO A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS  
EACH OF WHICH HAS AN  
ADDRESS.



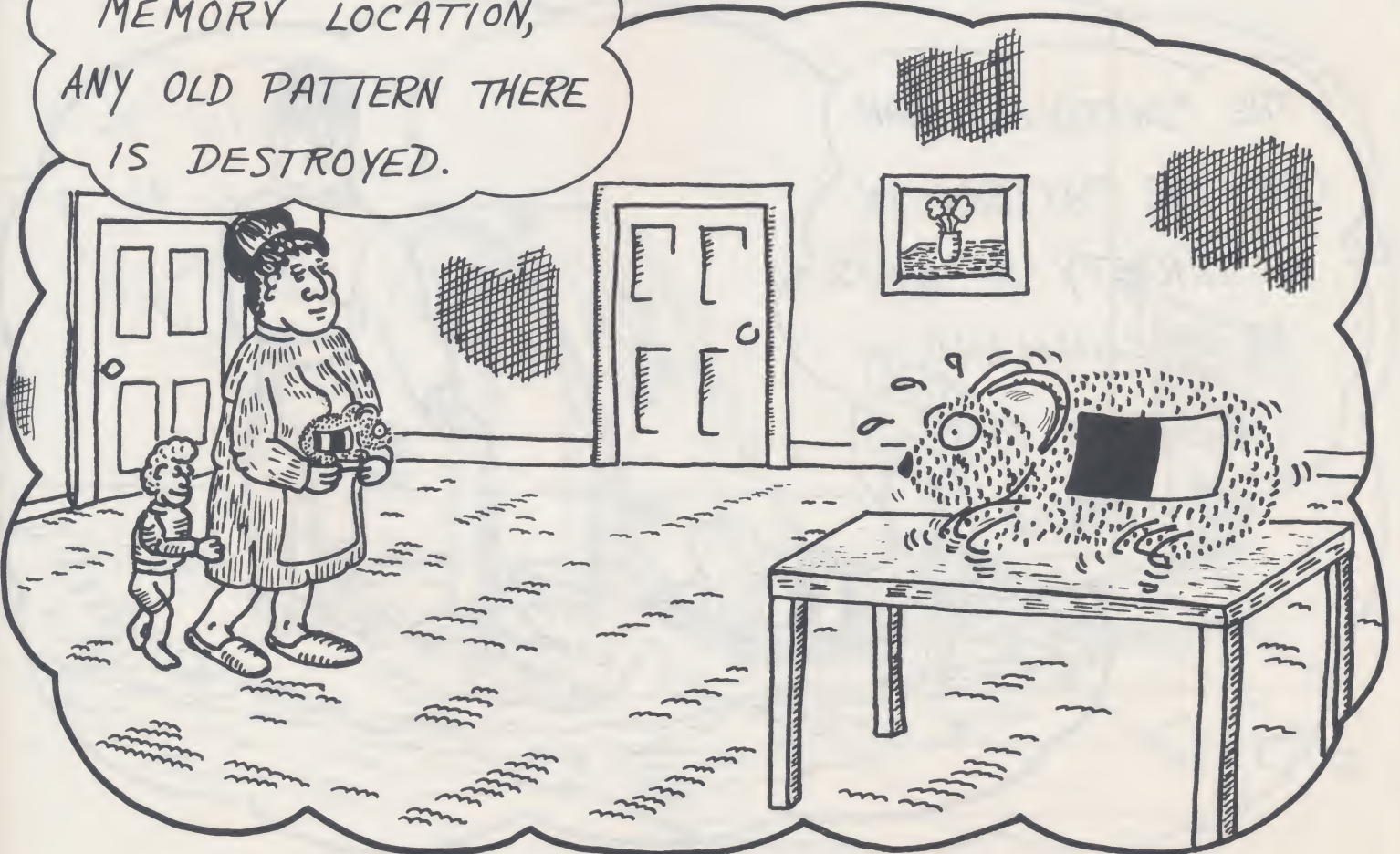
THE CONTROLLER CAN  
CAUSE A PATTERN (VALUE)  
TO BE STORED IN A  
SPECIFIC LOCATION.







WHEN A NEW VALUE  
IS PLACED IN A  
MEMORY LOCATION,  
ANY OLD PATTERN THERE  
IS DESTROYED.





PATTERNS CAN ALSO  
BE RETRIEVED FROM  
MEMORY. IN THIS  
CASE, A COPY IS MADE  
AND BROUGHT INTO THE  
CONTROLLER.



1023

THE CONTROLLER CAN  
USE THE PATTERN IN  
A VARIETY OF WAYS:  
AS A COMMAND,  
AS DATA TO BE  
TESTED ...

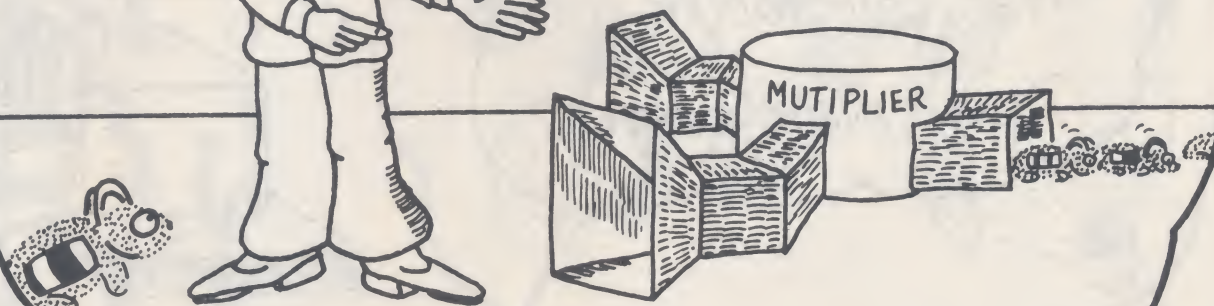


CHOOSE ONE.  
ARE YOU  
V I I A  
O O O U  
R ? ? ?

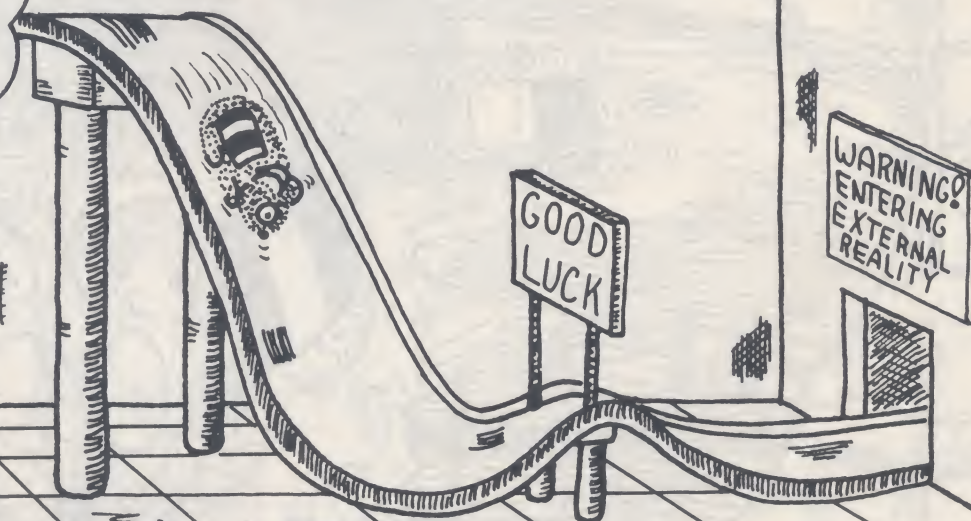


MANIPULATED  
IN SOME WAY

DON BE SHY,  
MY FREN, STEP RIGHT  
ON IN - IT'S  
FREE!

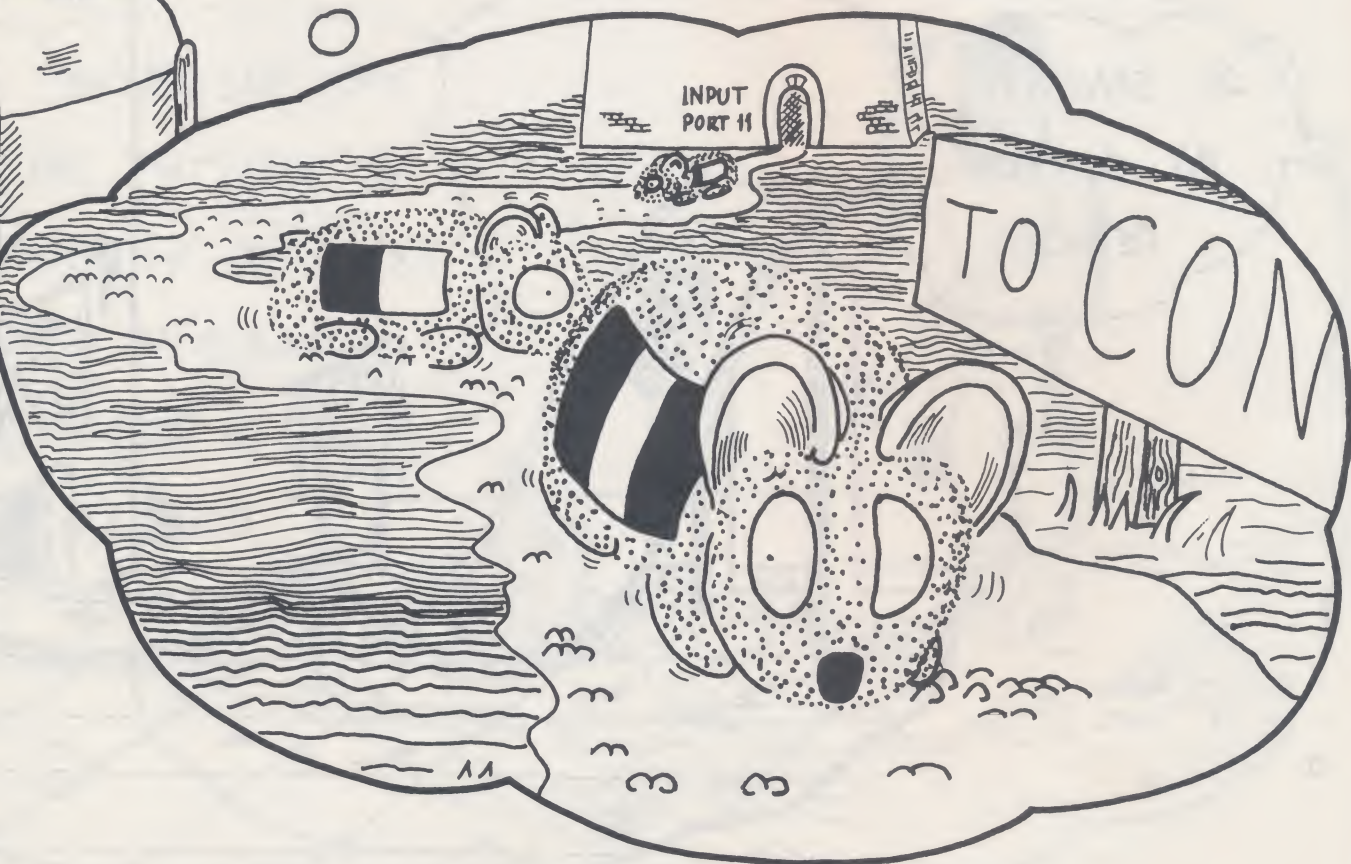
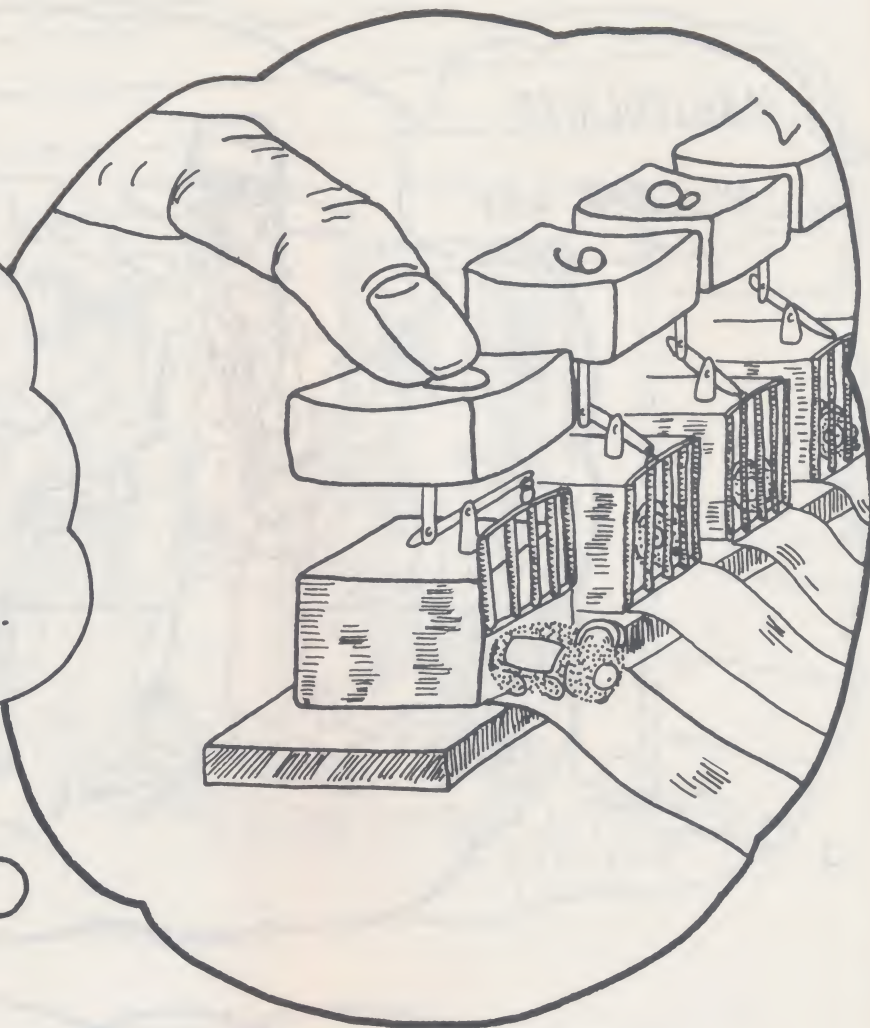


OR SENT TO  
AN OUTPUT  
DEVICE.



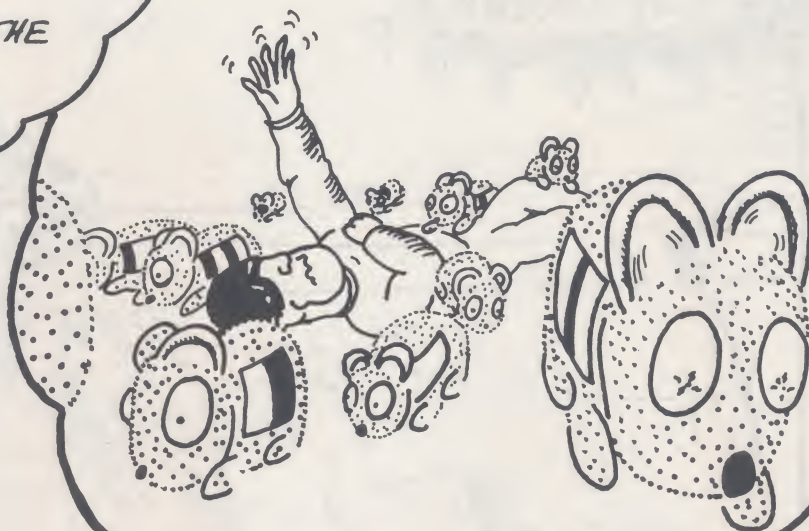


VALUES CAN ALSO  
BE BROUGHT TO  
THE CONTROLLER  
FROM INPUT DEVICES.





STATEMENTS IN BASIC  
CAN BE BEST UNDERSTOOD BY  
THINKING ABOUT THEIR EFFECT  
ON THE THREE PARTS OF THE  
CONCEPTUAL COMPUTER...  
ANY QUESTIONS?

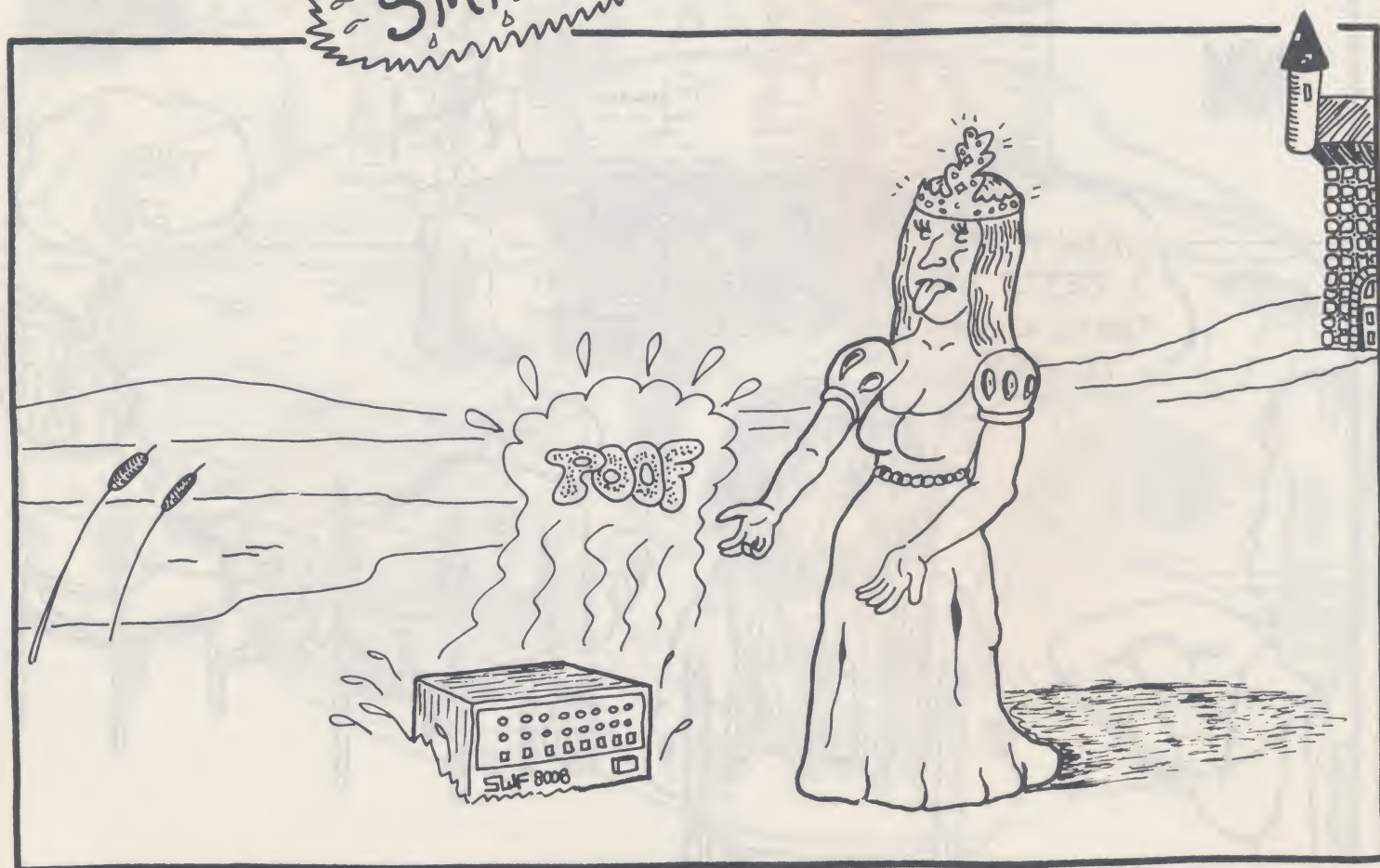




Princess  
Batrachus



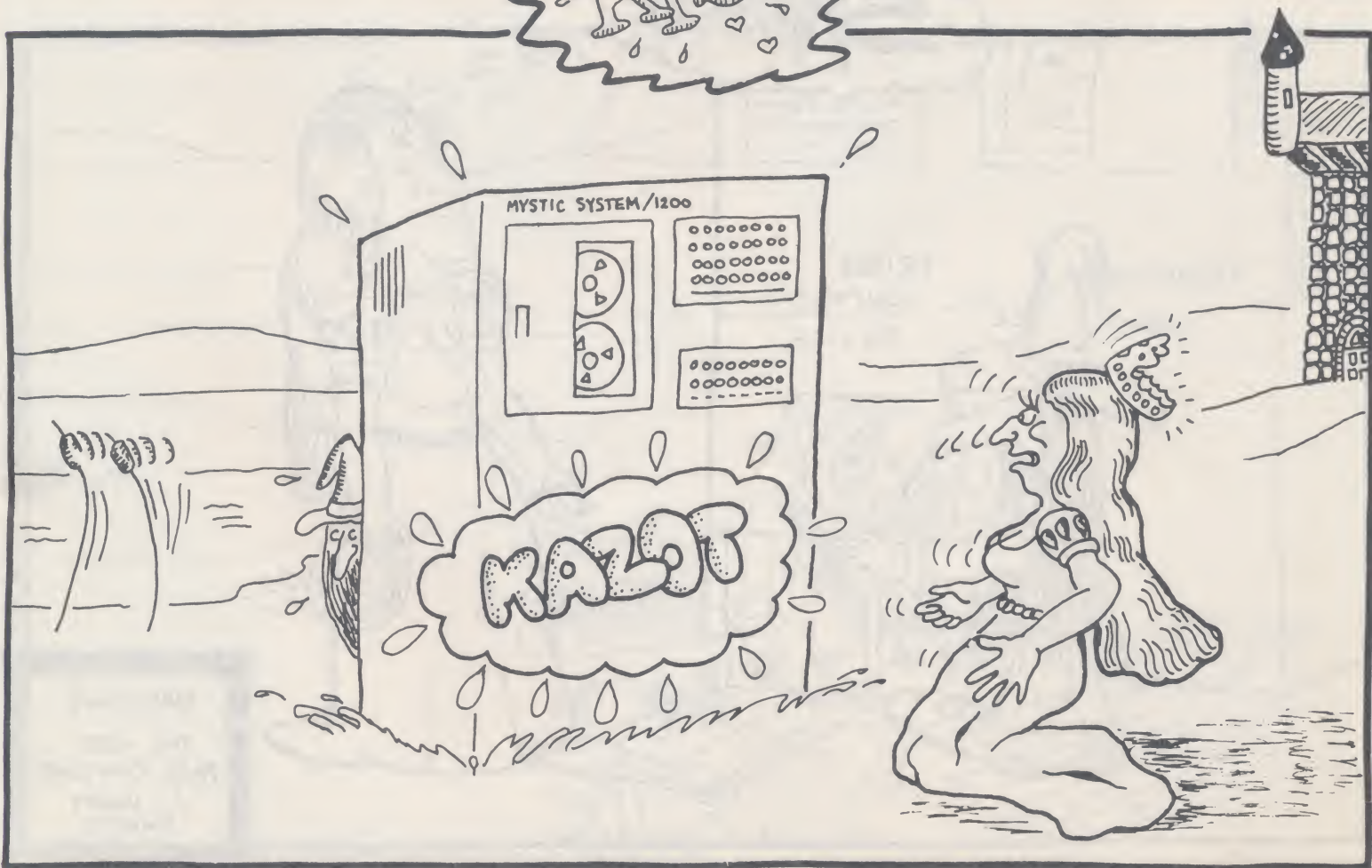
SMACK







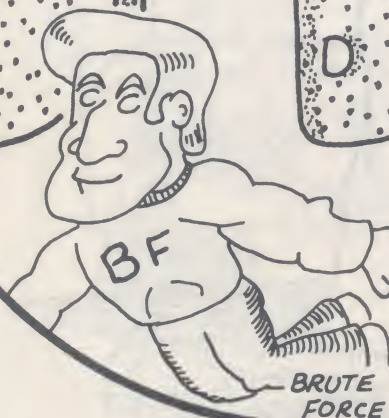
KISS





They fight for TRUTH  
They fight for PURITY  
They fight with each other  
THEY'RE THE

# OF-BURGERS



LET COUNT=1



THERE GOES A  
COUNTER. LOOKS LIKE  
IT GOT INITIALIZED  
OK



IF ARRAY(COUNT) = NAME THEN PRINT/STOP

WHAT PROGRAM  
ARE WE IN,  
ANYWAY?

WELL?  
IS YOUR  
VALUE THE  
SAME AS  
HIS?

ARRAY(1)

ZURNLY

YES

PRINT

"FOUND NAME"

NO

LET COUNT = COUNT + 1

WOW AM I  
STRONG!

BF

NEAR AS I CAN  
TELL, IT'S A NAIVE  
SEARCH ROUTINE.  
HOW DO THINGS  
LOOK HERE?

OK. THE  
COUNTER MUST  
HAVE JUST LEFT.  
THE ADDER'S  
STILL WARM.

STOP



IF COUNT < 30  
THEN GO BACK & TRY AGAIN

RIGHT. YOU'RE  
LESS THAN 30.  
THAT WAY, PLEASE

EVERYTHING STILL  
LOOKS OK, BUT  
LET'S WATCH  
A WHILE

YES

NO

PRINT NAME,  
"NOT FOUND"

TIME PASSES

STOP

IF COUNT < 30  
THEN GO BACK & TRY AGAIN

WONDER WHERE  
BF WENT. OFF  
POSING SOMEWH...  
WHAT WAS THAT  
NOISE?

PRINT NAME,  
"NOT FOUND"



IF COUNT < 30  
THEN GO BACK & TRY AGAIN



THE BUG IS  
STOPPING THE  
LOOP EARLY!

YES

NO



PRINT NAME,  
"NOT FOUND"

STOP

IF COUNT < 30  
THEN GO BACK & TRY AGAIN

BF! WAIT!

LEAVE THIS  
TO ME!

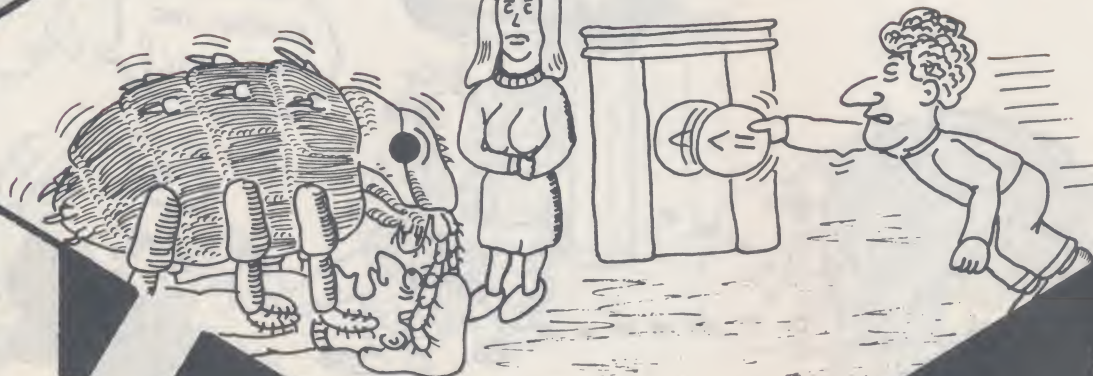


PRINT NAME,  
"NOT FOUND"



IF COUNT < 30  
THEN GO BACK & TRY AGAIN

THAT  
DINGBAT



PRINT NAME,  
"NOT FOUND"

STOP

IF COUNT <= 30  
THEN GO BACK & TRY AGAIN

COME ON - LET'S  
GET OUT OF  
HERE...

POOF

PHEW!

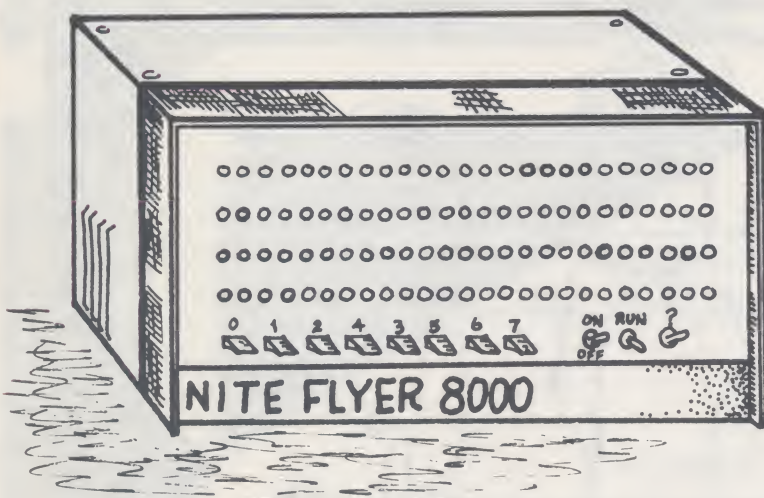


PRINT NAME,  
"NOT FOUND"









### Features

- 1 three kinds of memory!
  - power switch functions as 1 bit static RAM
  - includes infinite capacity Write Only Memory (WOM)
  - includes ROM programmed to flash panel lights on and off
- 2 more panel lights than any other home computer!
- 3 power line interface
  - permits system to be plugged into 2-prong or 3-prong wall sockets!
- 4 kit includes tools and supplies
  - sledge hammer for shaping chassis
  - beer can opener
  - 3oz. commercial grade silicon for repairs to IC's
- 5 massive software library (avail. Spring 1983)
  - MACRObiotic Assembler
  - Over-Extended Basic (requires 64K RAM)
  - FORTRESS (military version of FORTRAN II)
  - LITHP (list processing language)
  - RPGWhizz (sophisticated report generator)

WRITE FOR DETAILS:

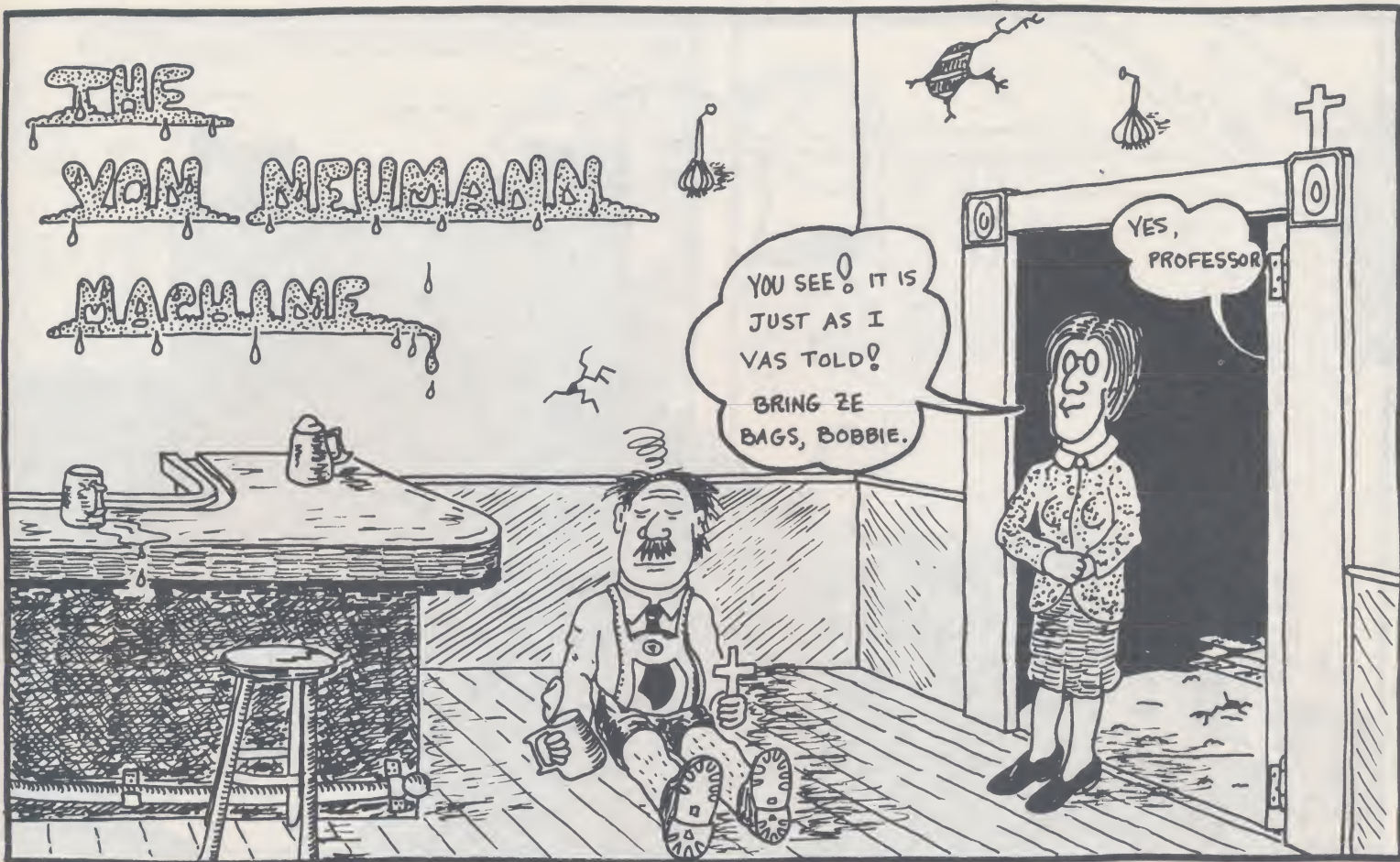
NITE FLYER ENTERPRISES

127 DEL MONICO, APT. 10

EL CERVEZA, CA

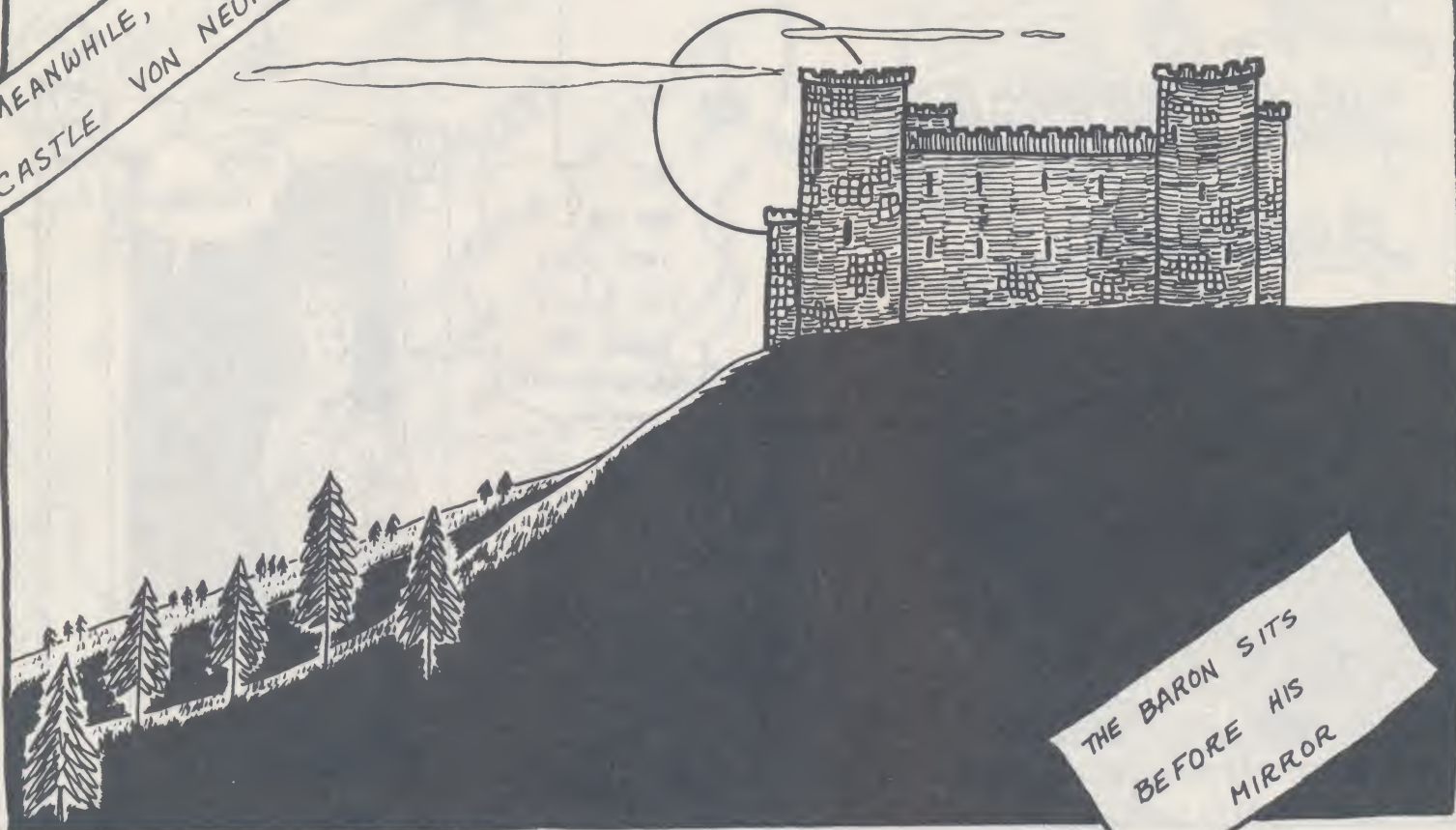
*Remember:  
 We make more  
 promises than any  
 other home computer  
 manufacturer!!*







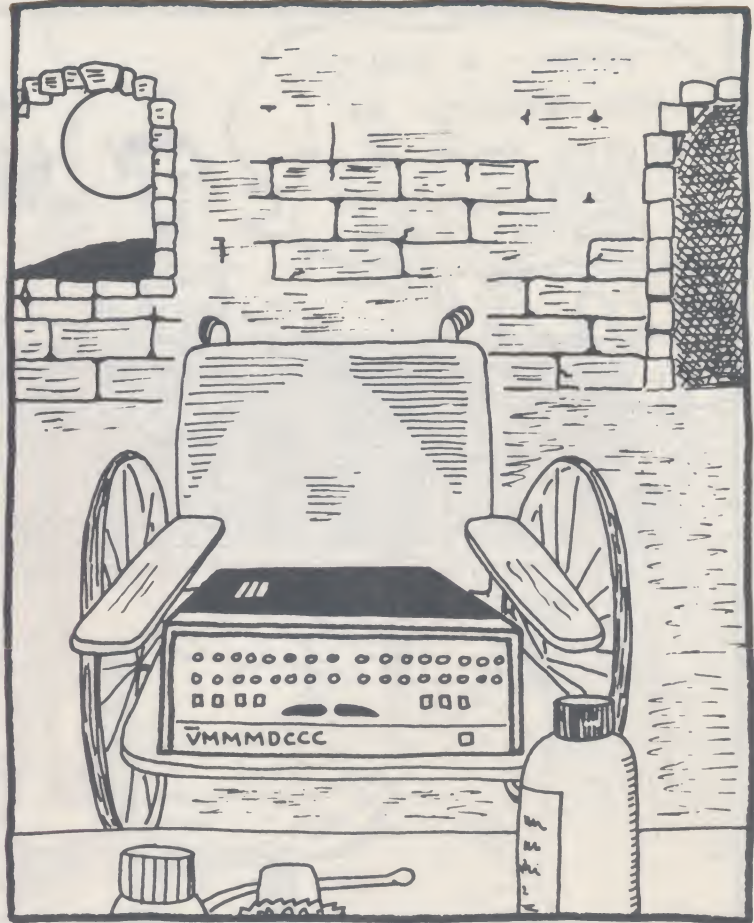
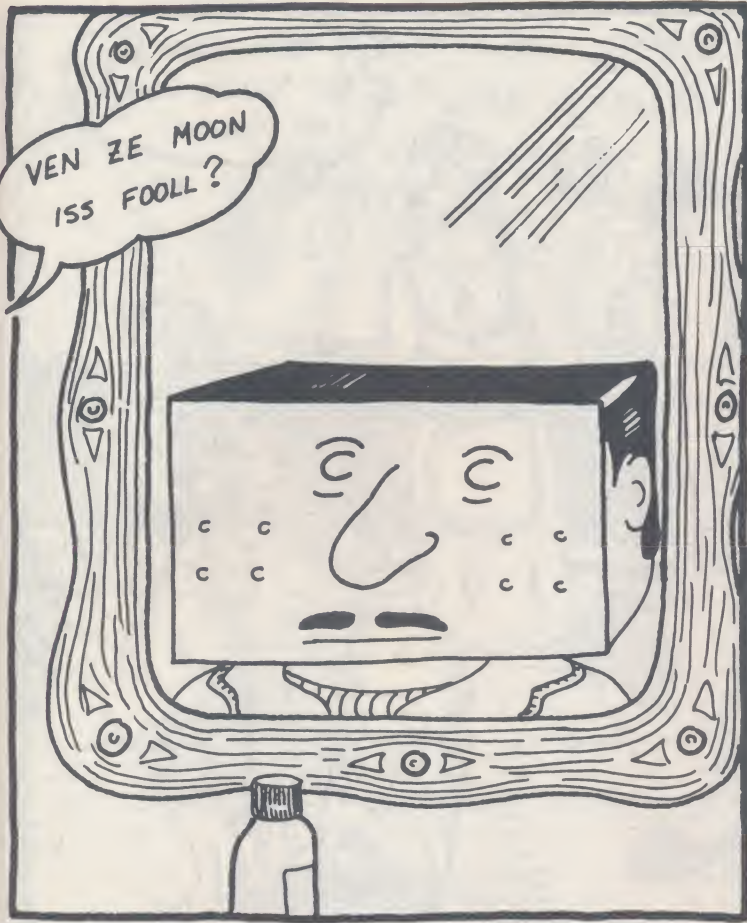
MEANWHILE, IN  
CASTLE VON NEUMANN,



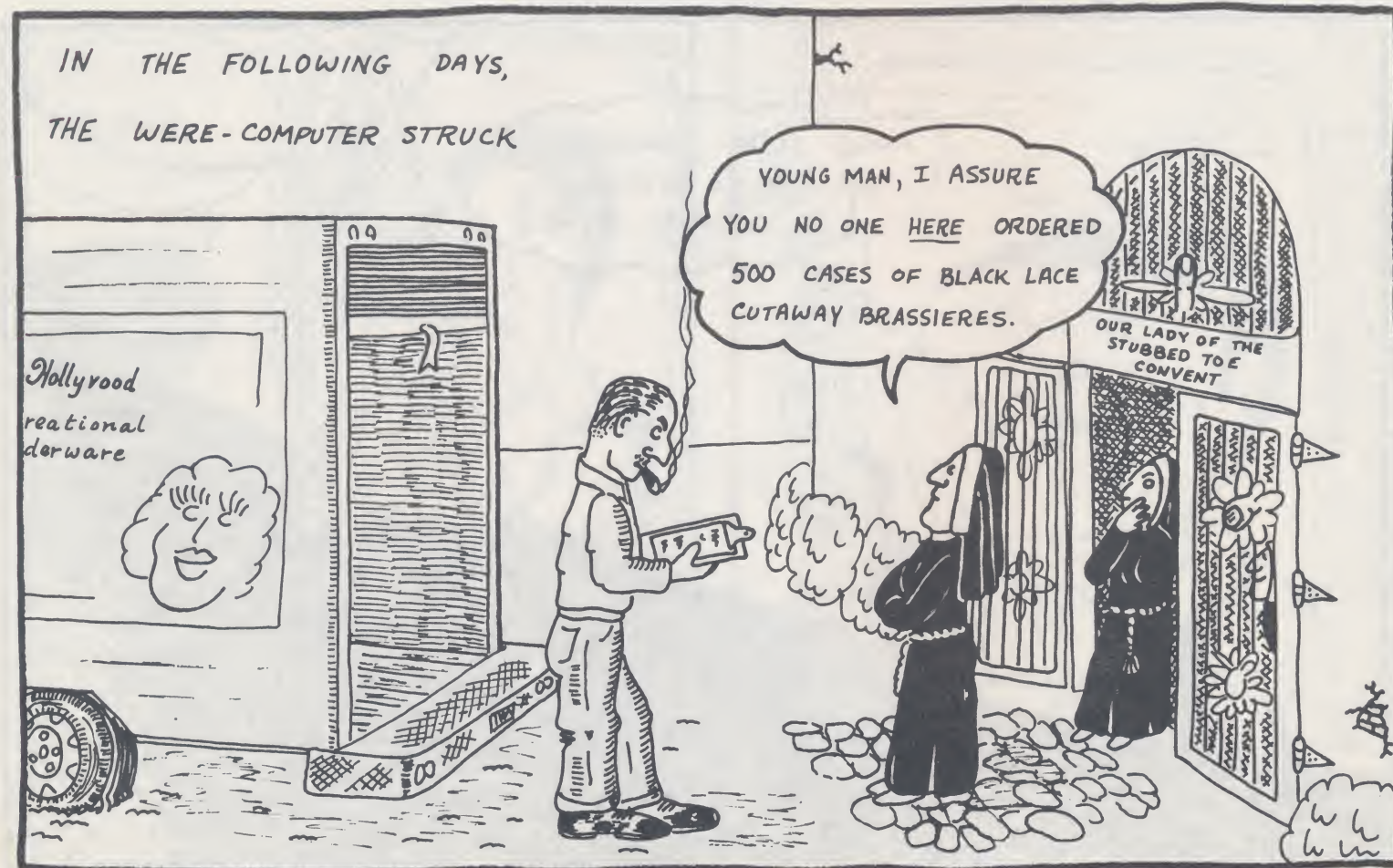
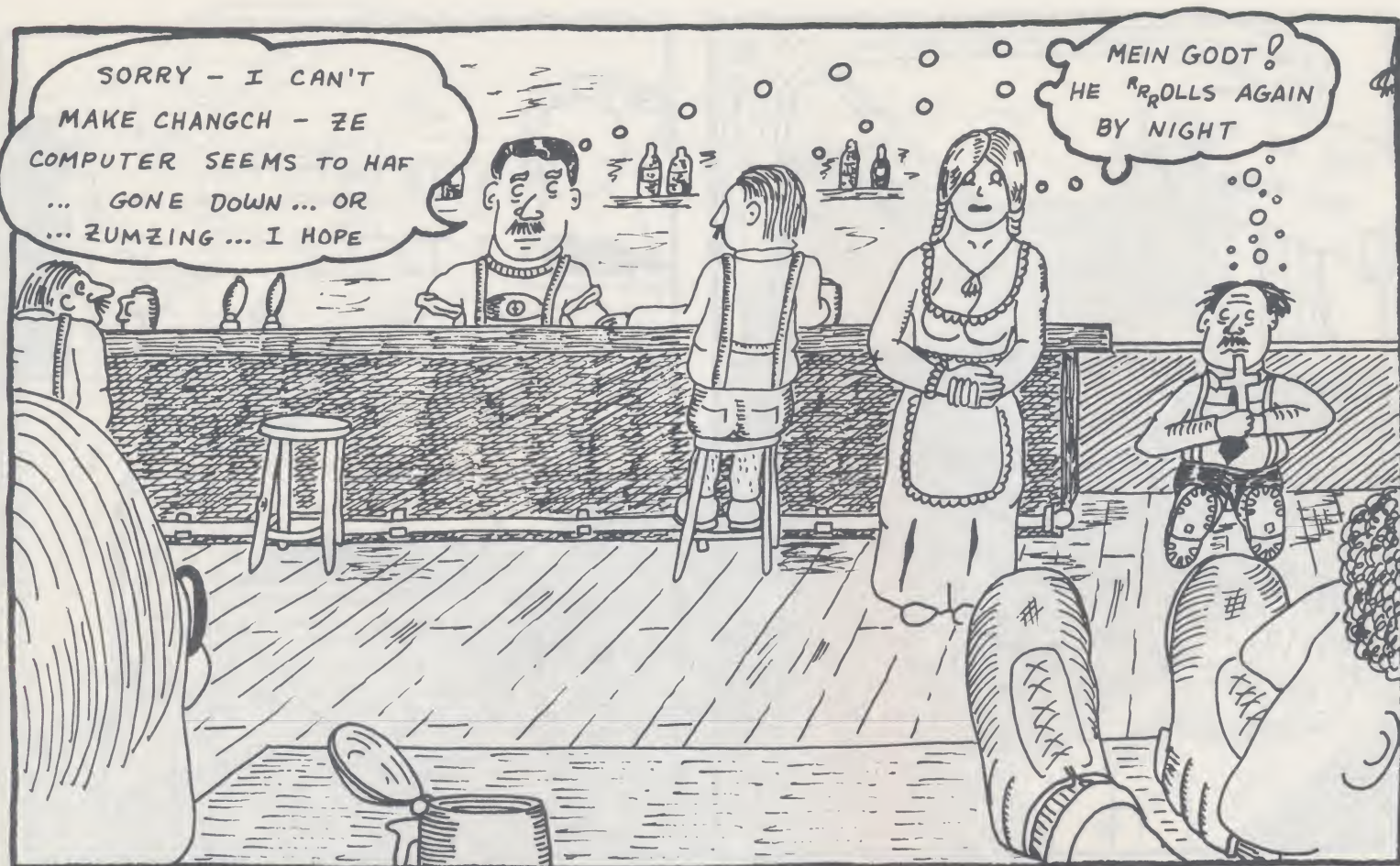
THE BARON SITS  
BEFORE HIS  
MIRROR











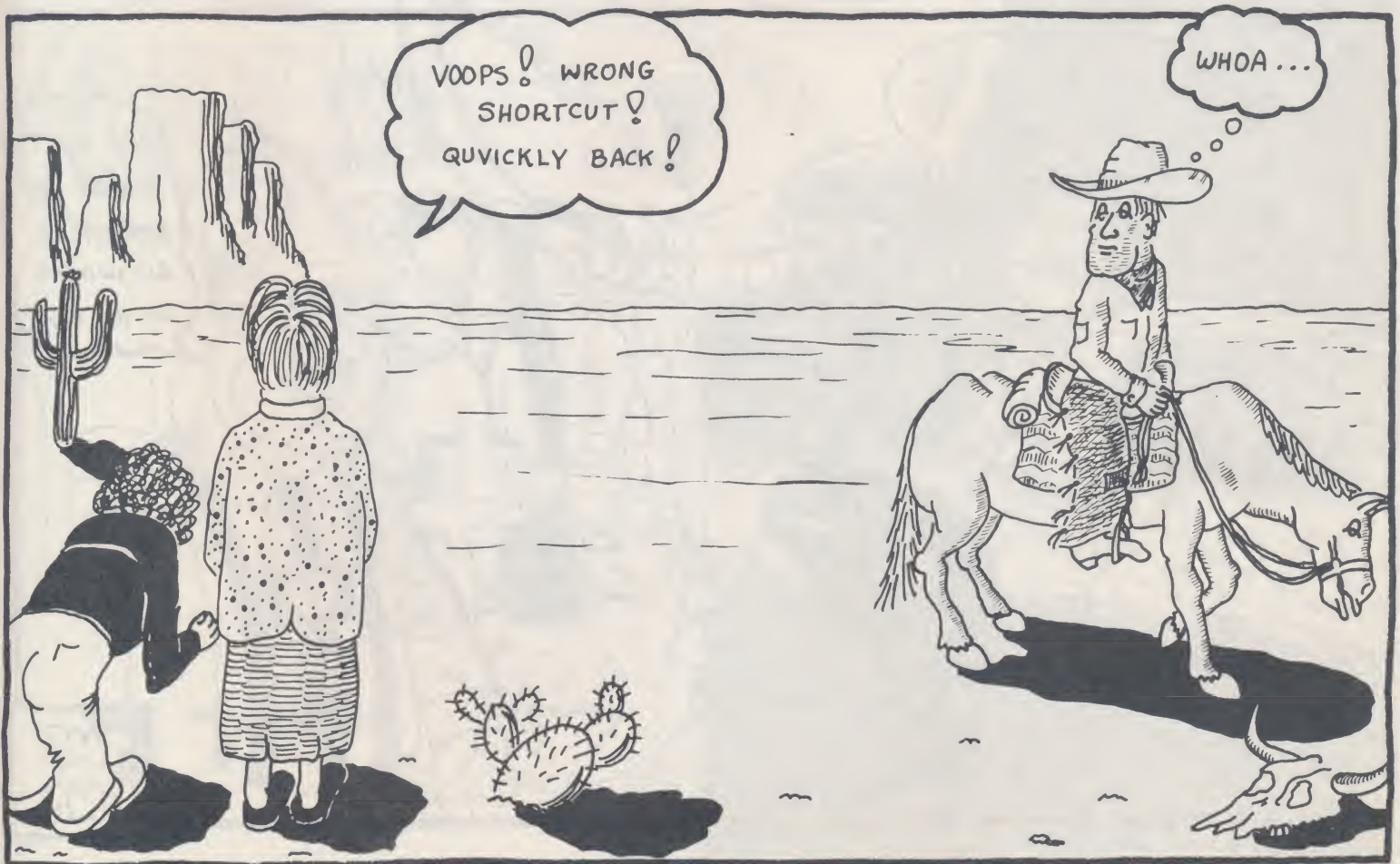








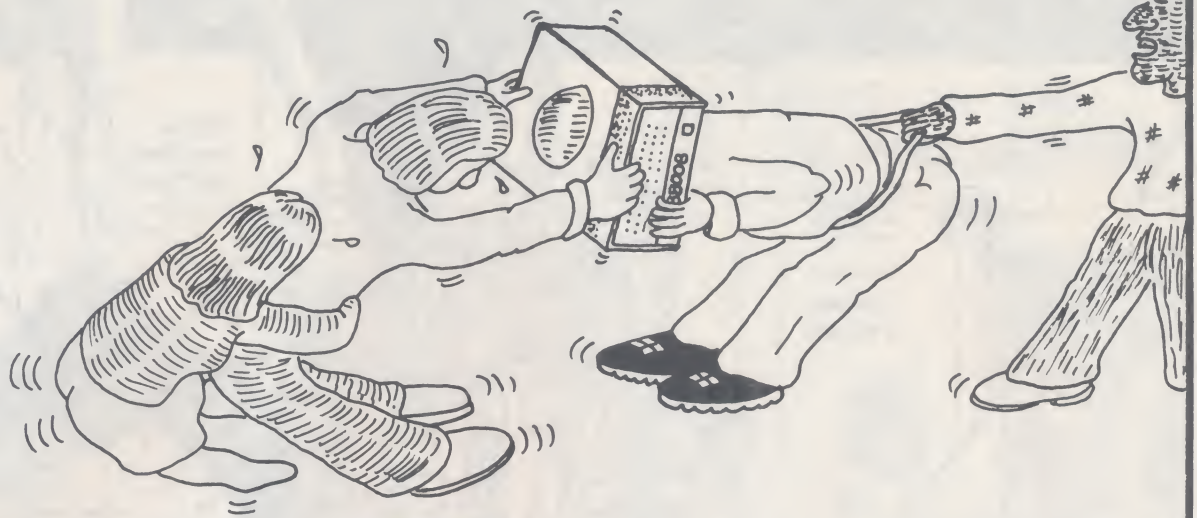




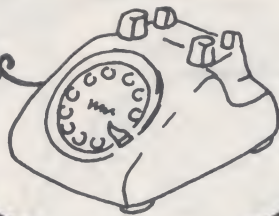








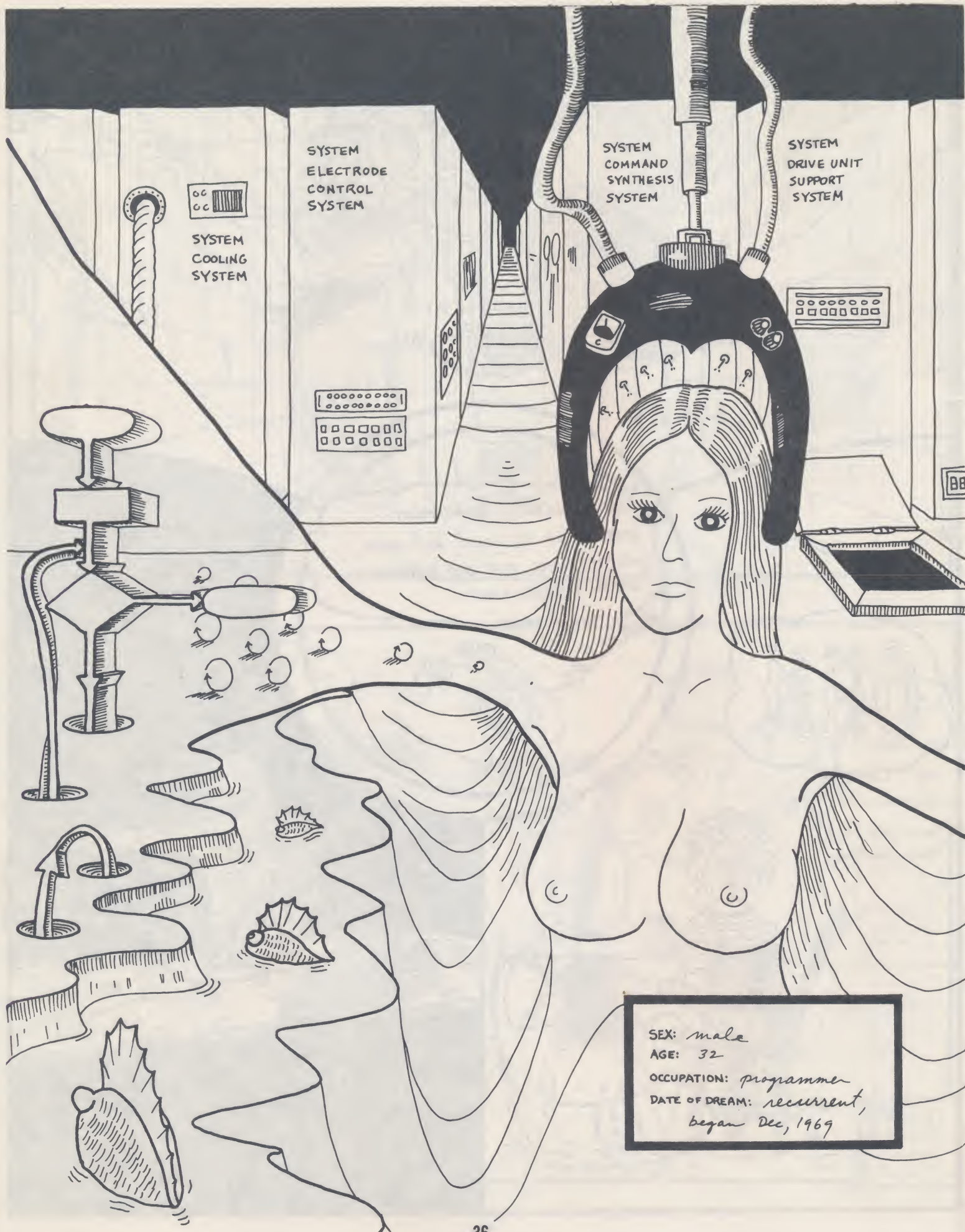
HELLO, SERVICE DEPARTMENT?  
LISTEN, WE FOLLOWED ALL YOUR  
INSTRUCTIONS, BUT OUR KIT STILL  
DOESN'T WORK RIGHT...



OHM







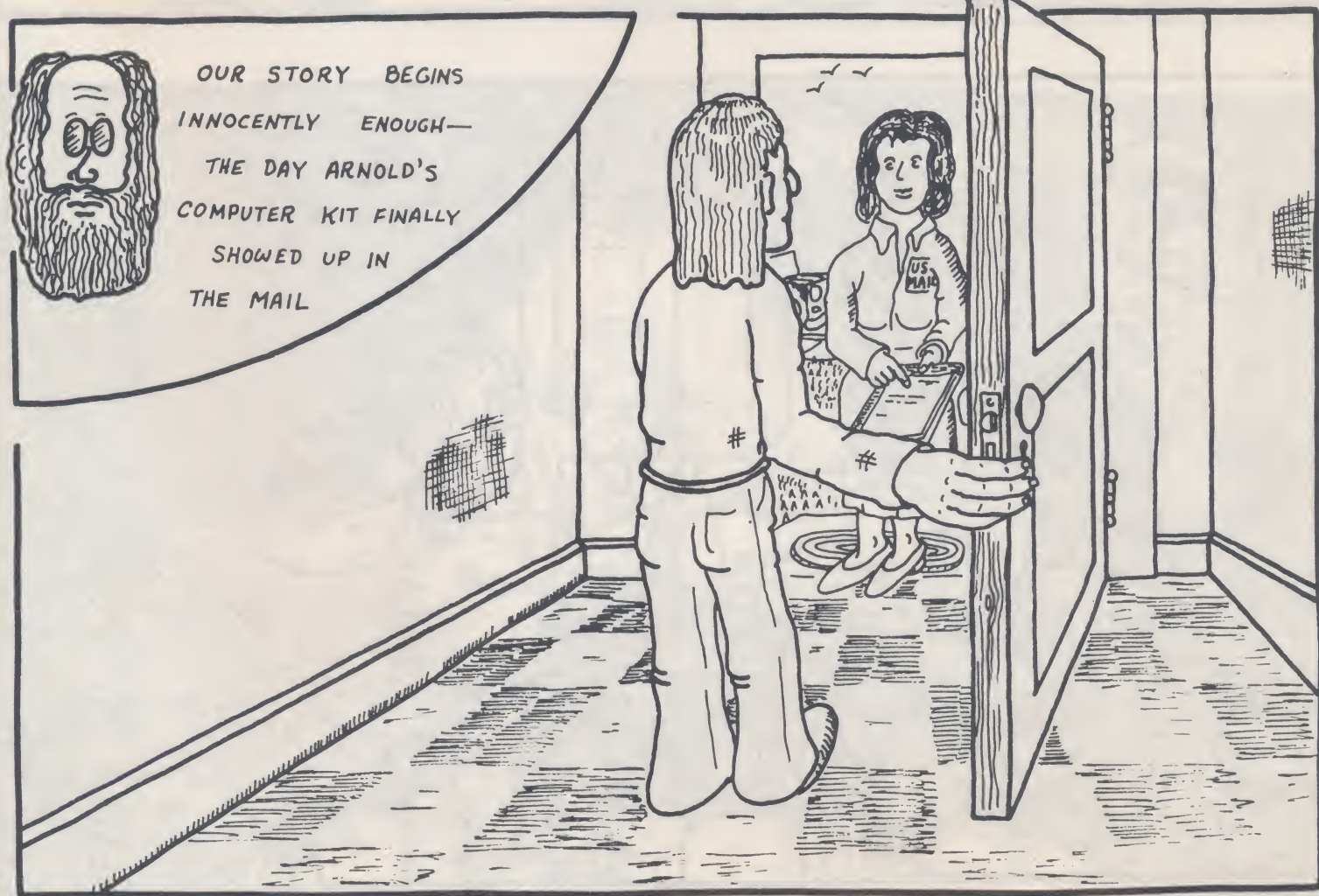
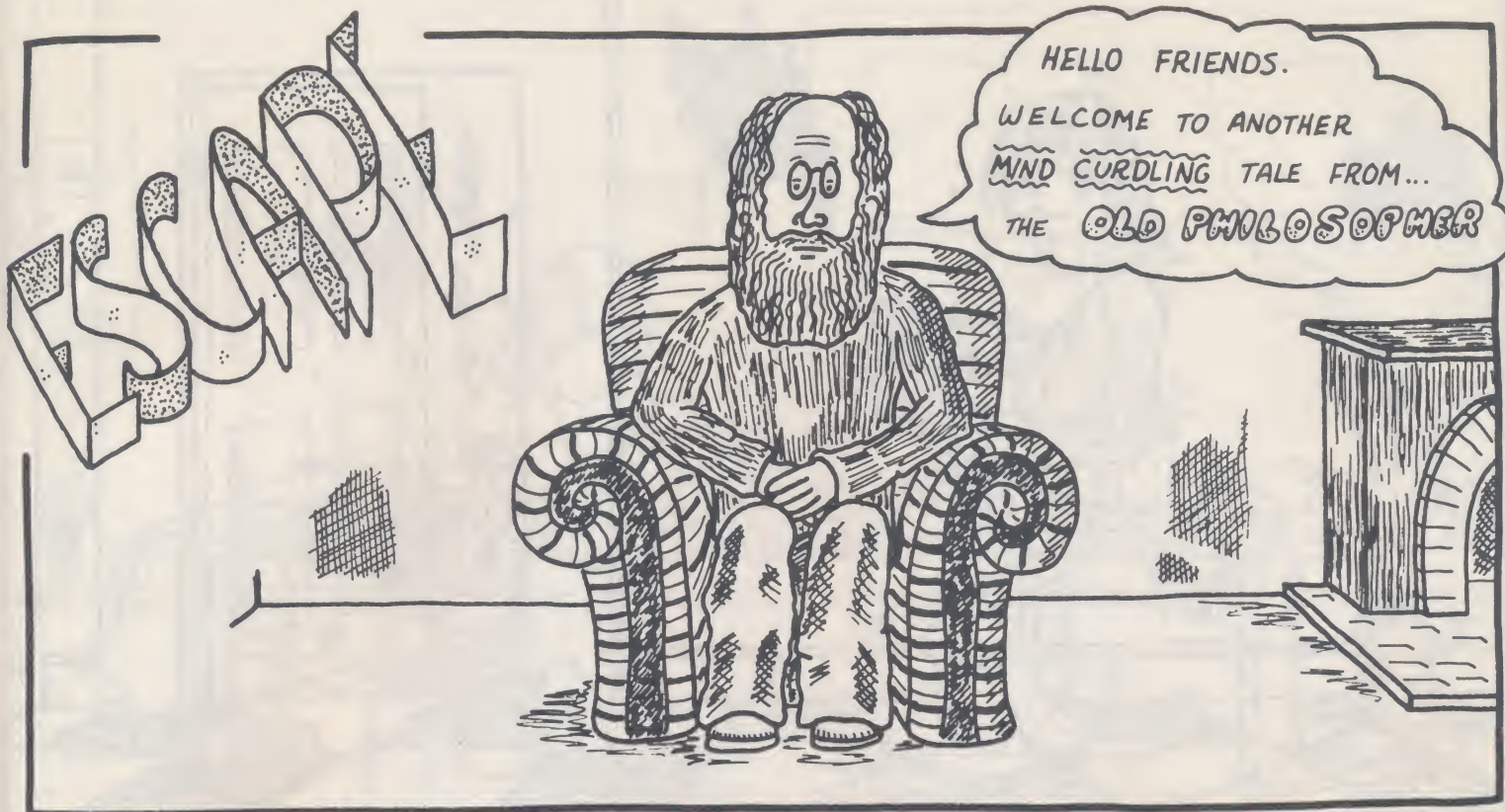
SEX: male

AGE: 32

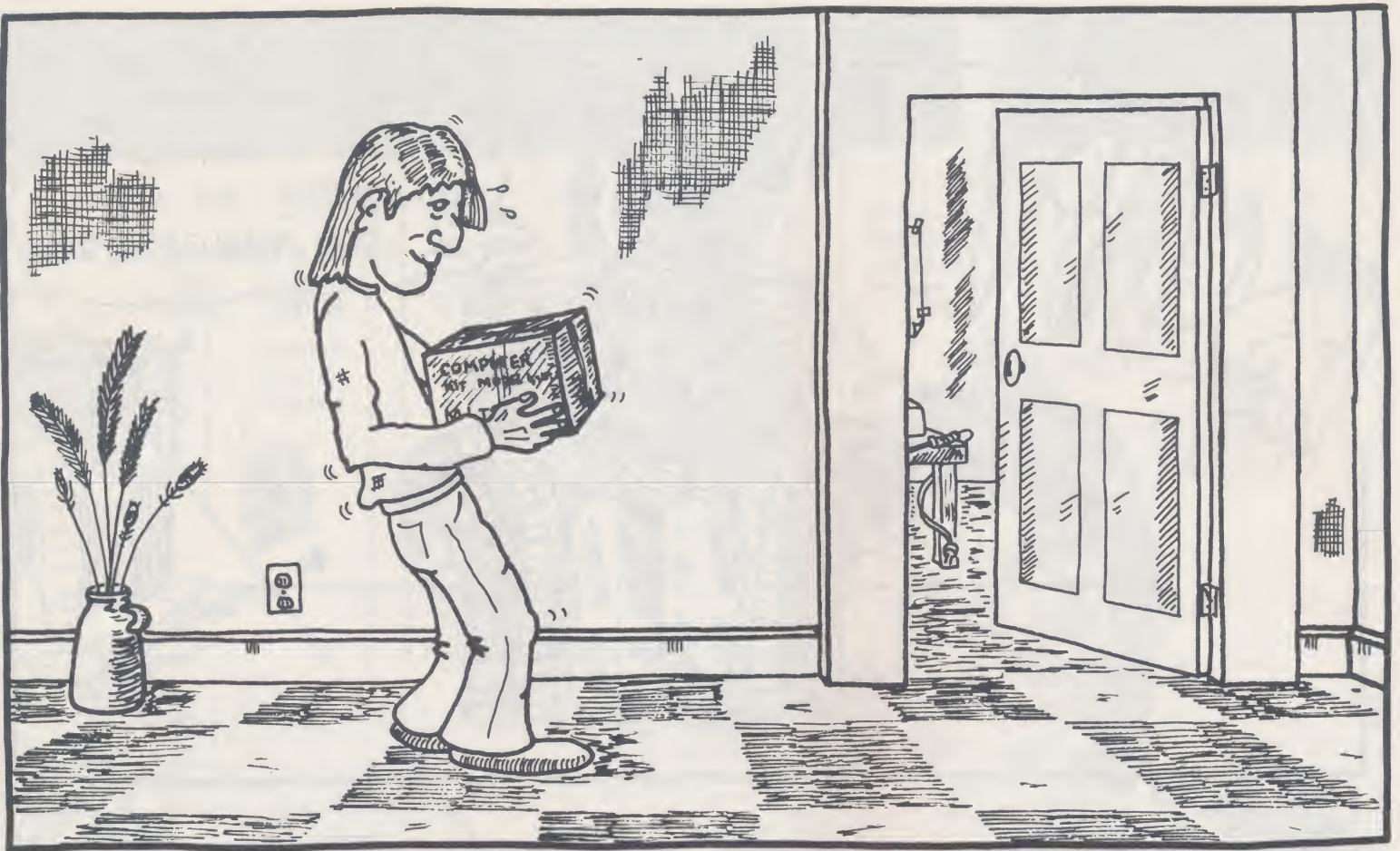
OCCUPATION: programmer

DATE OF DREAM: recurrent,  
began Dec, 1969

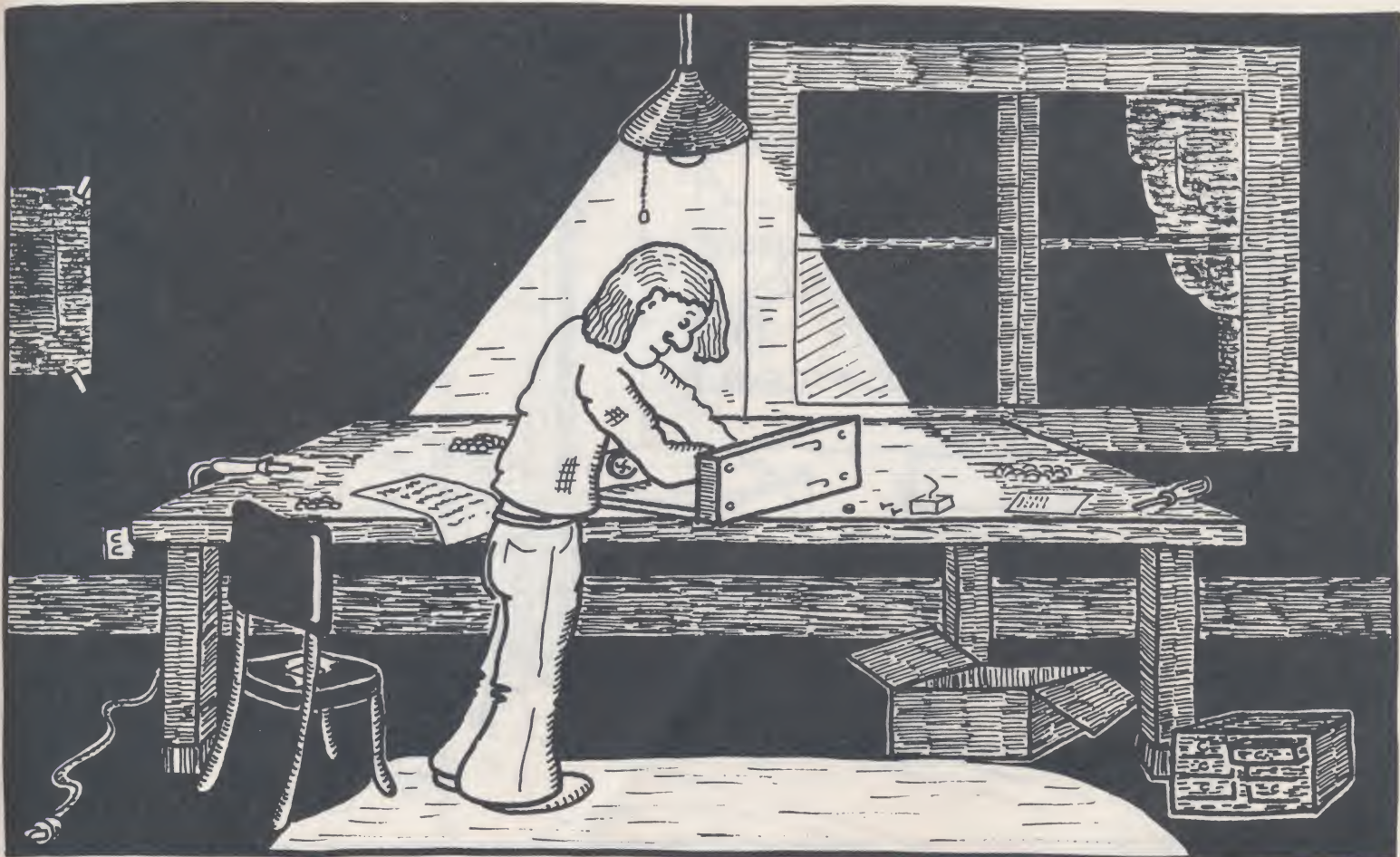
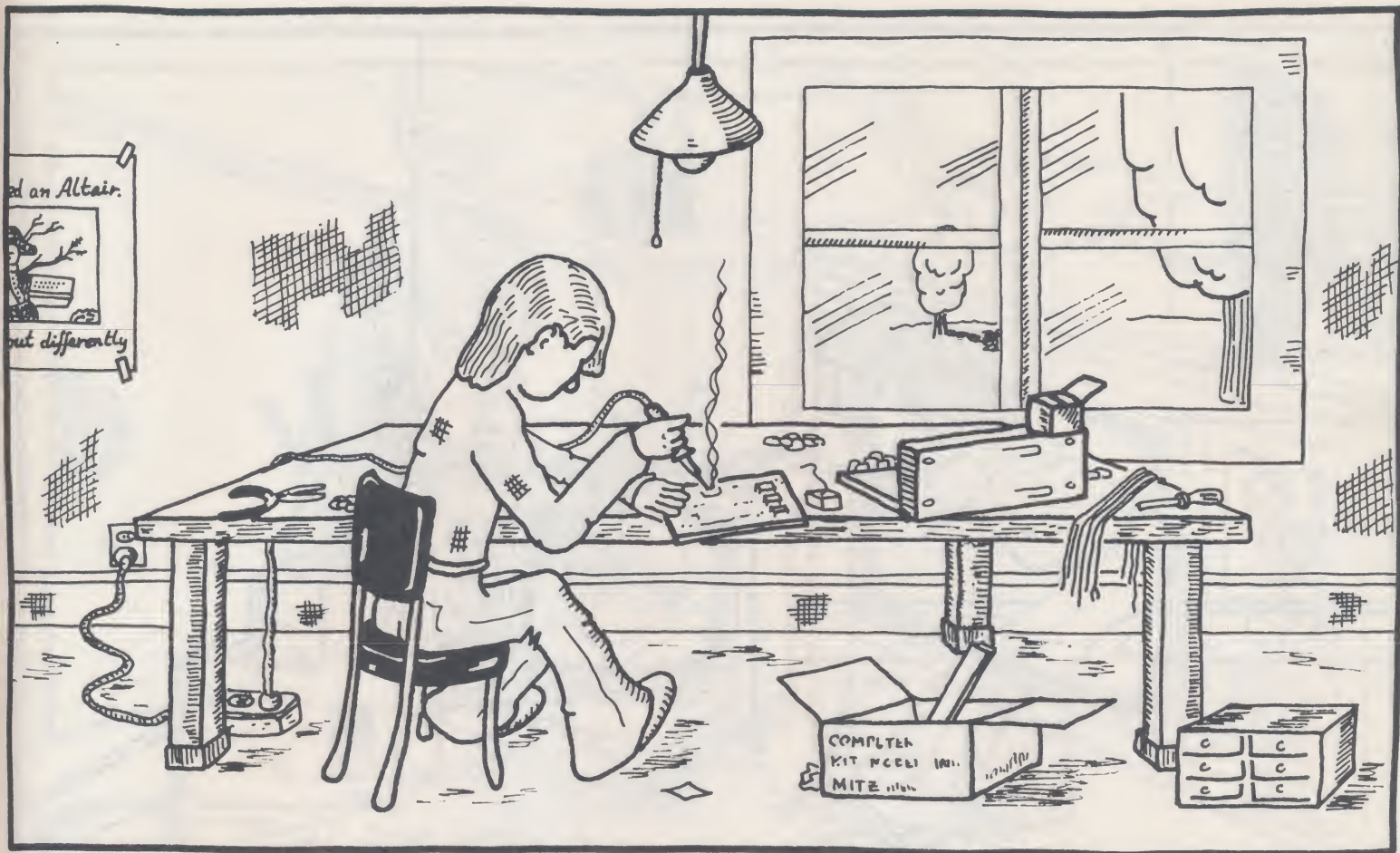




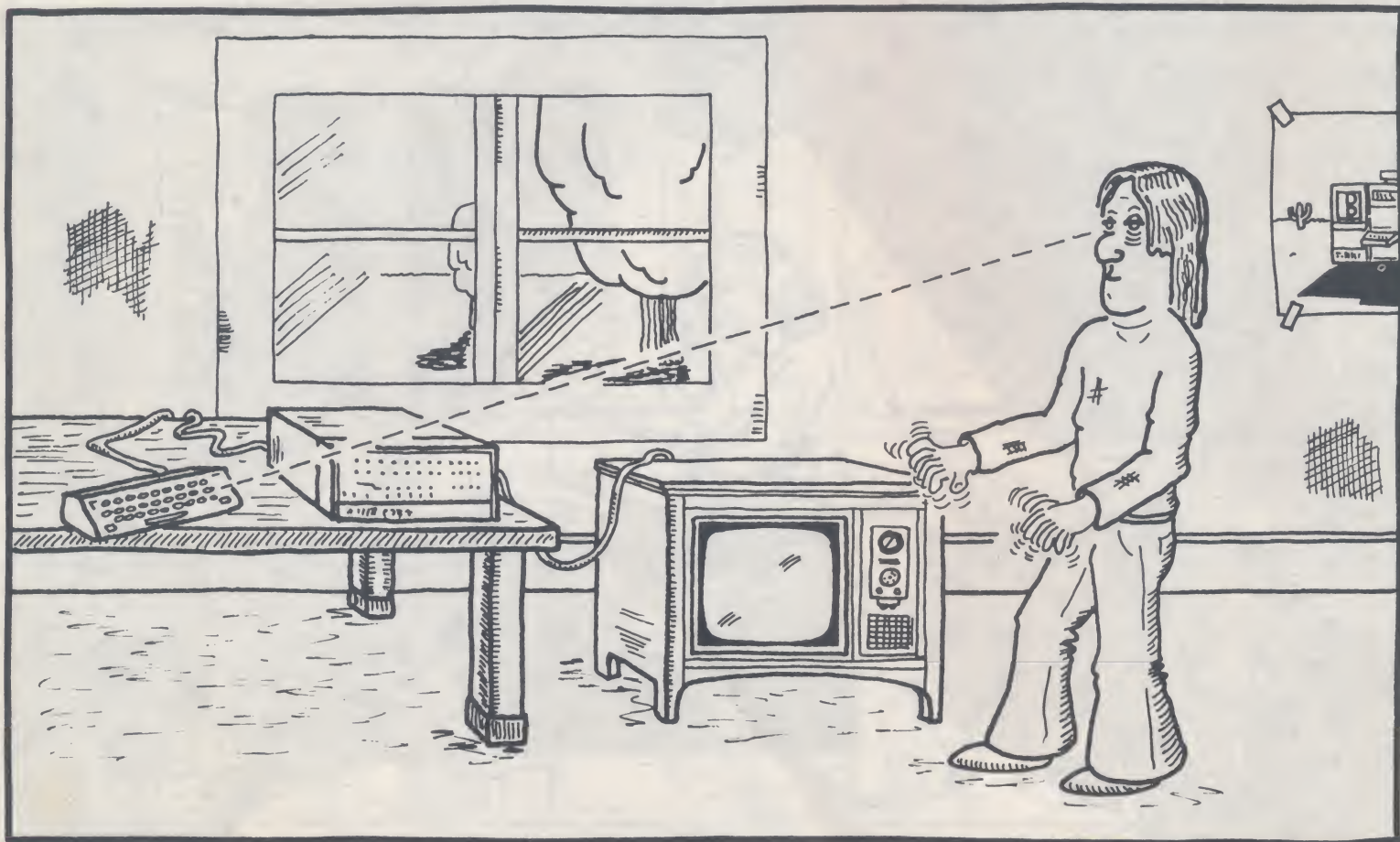
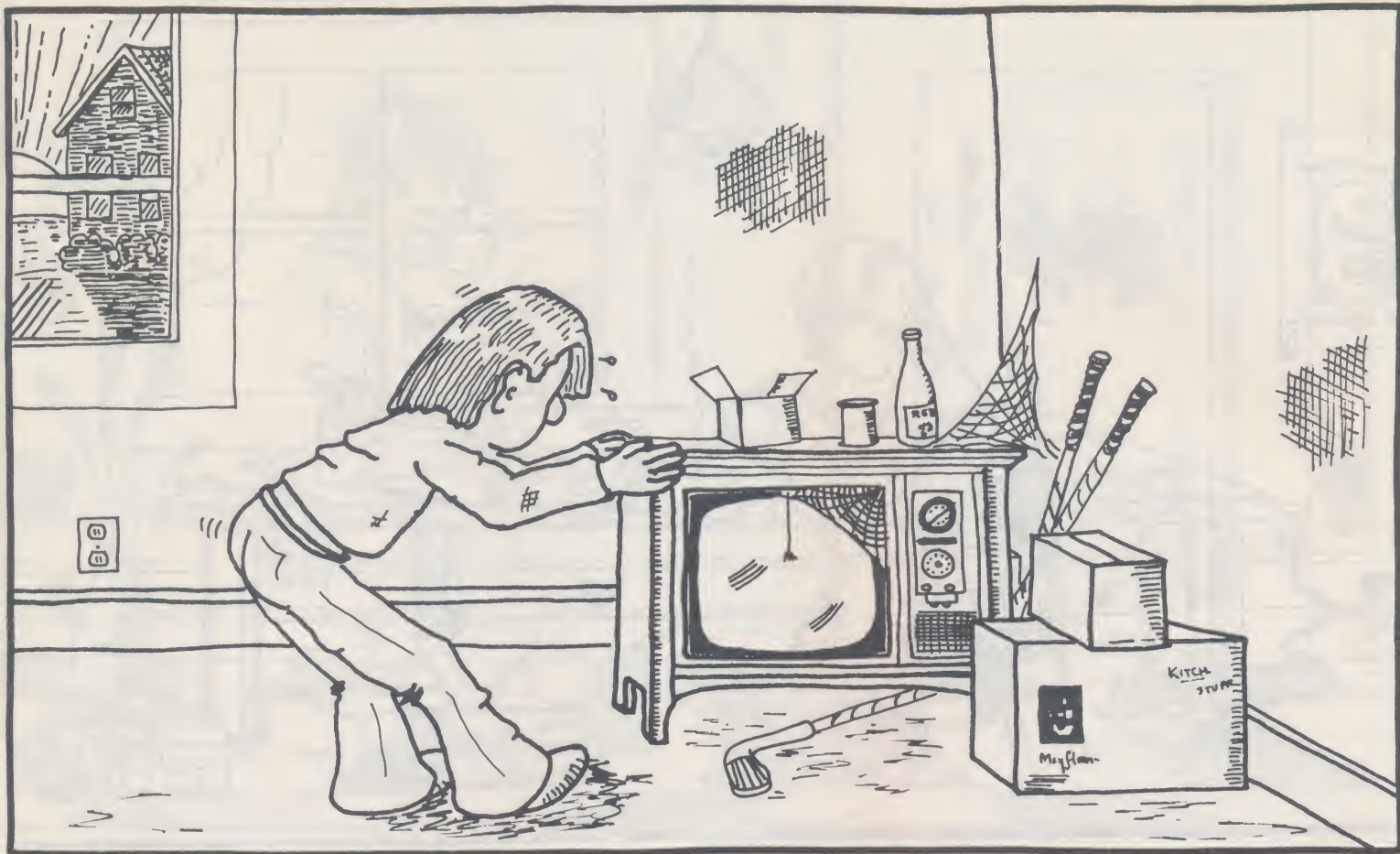




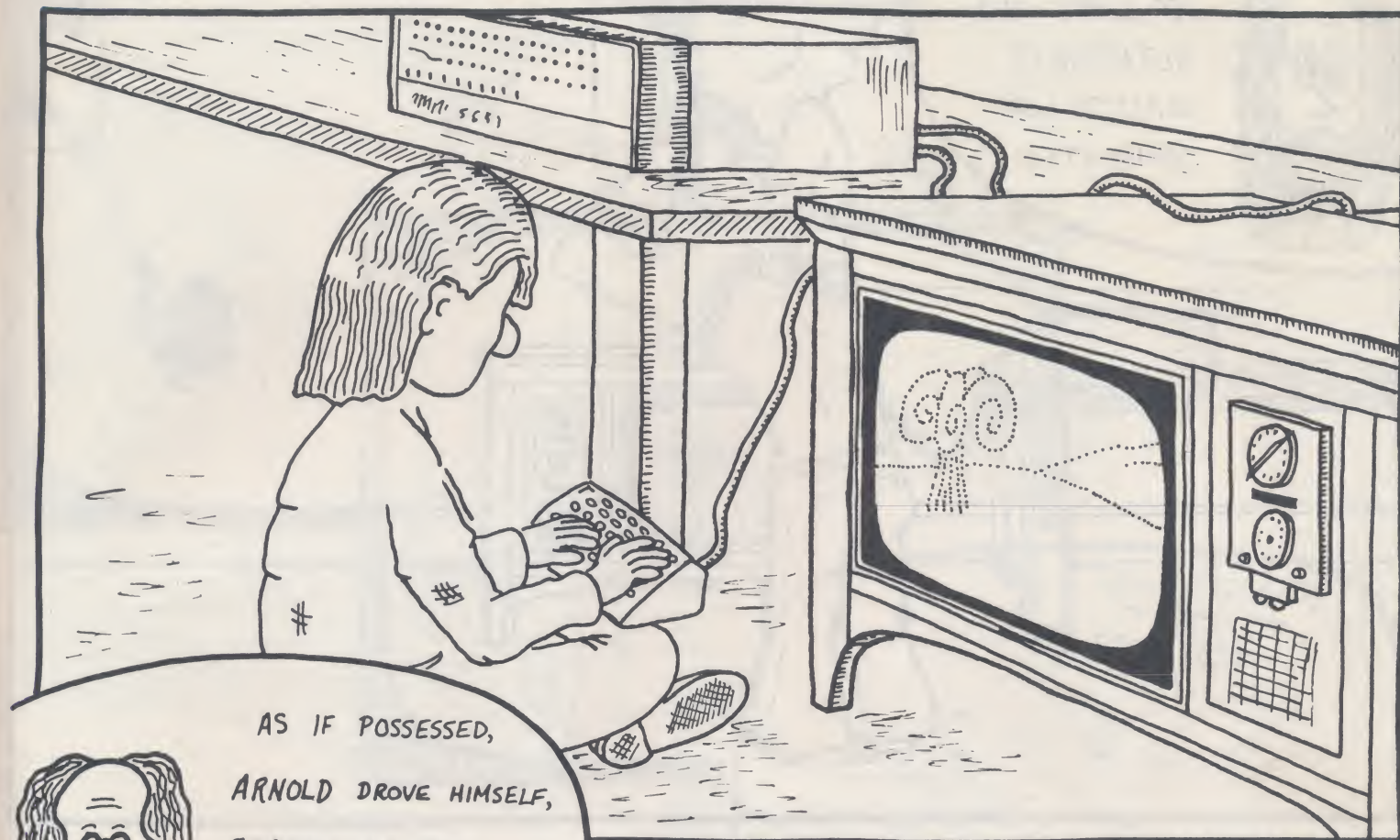




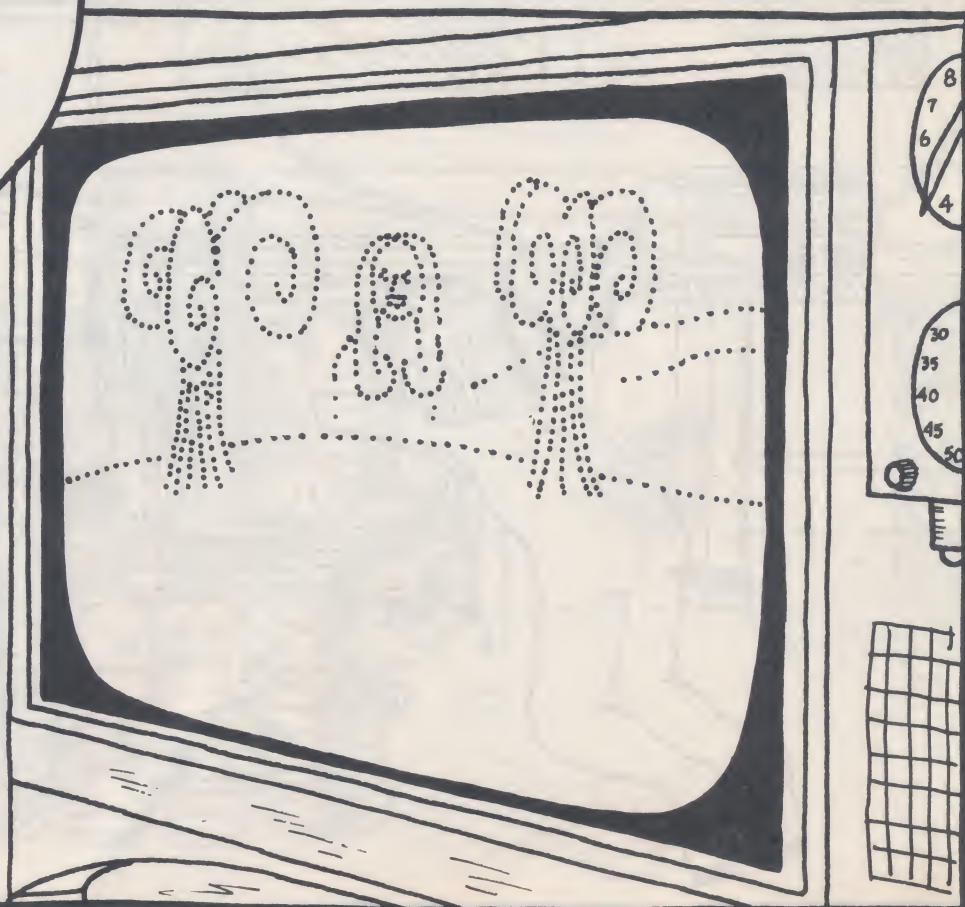




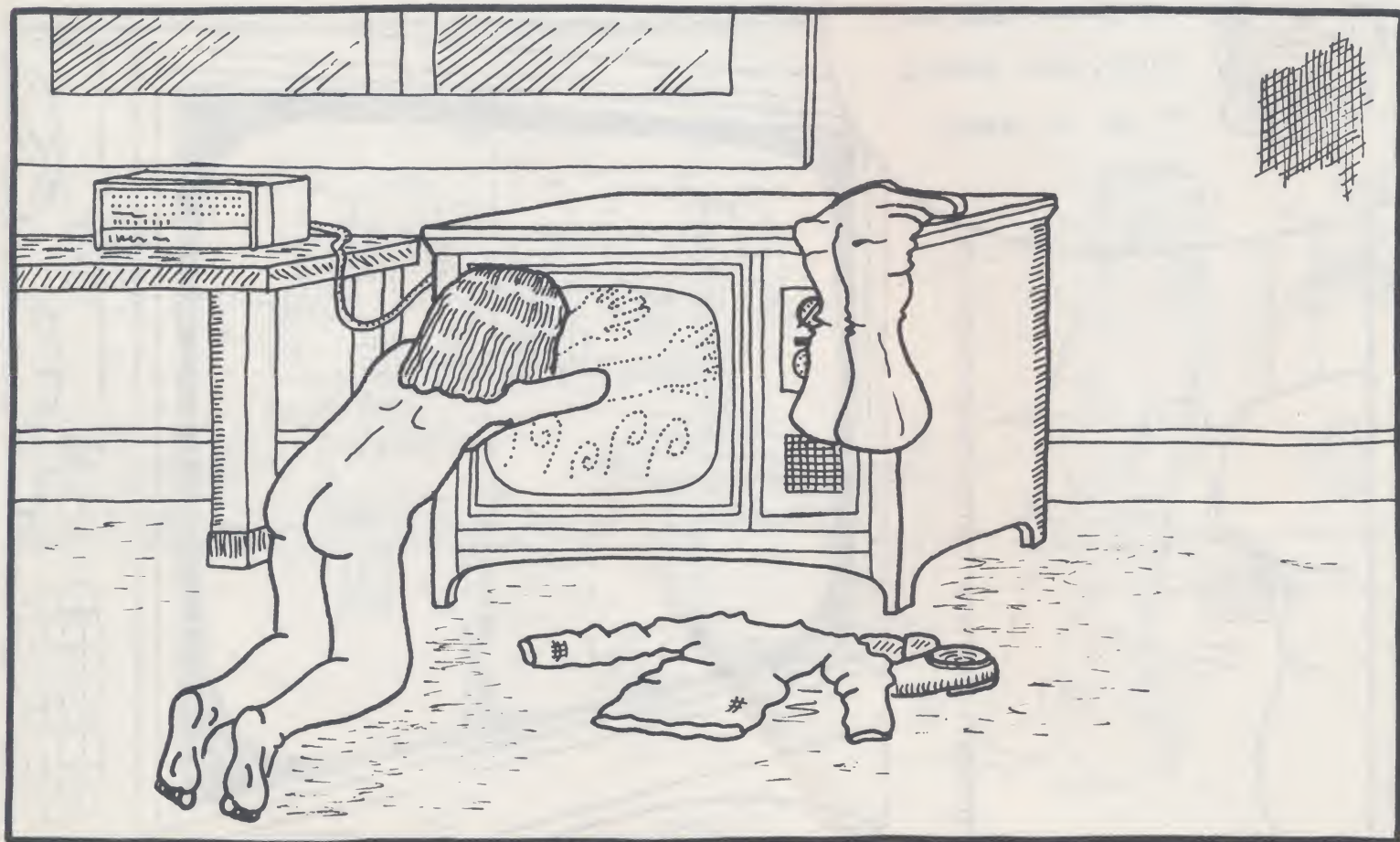




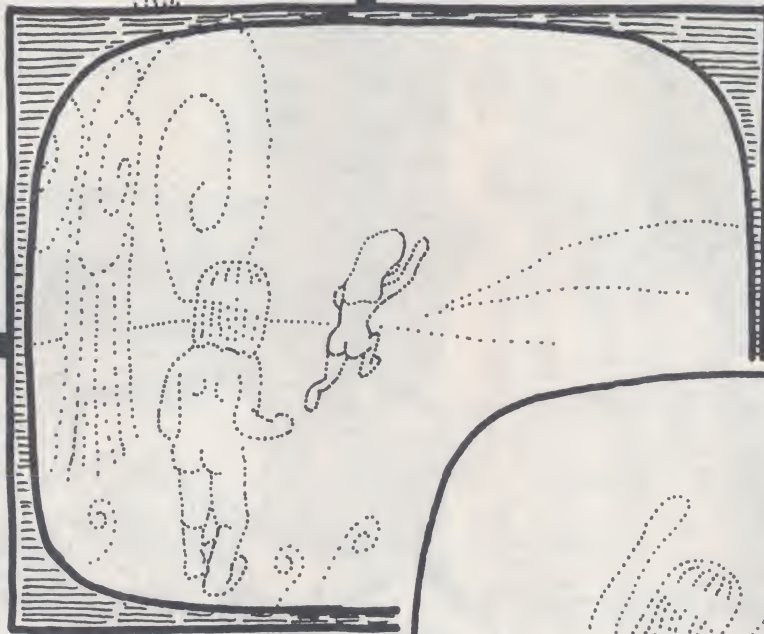
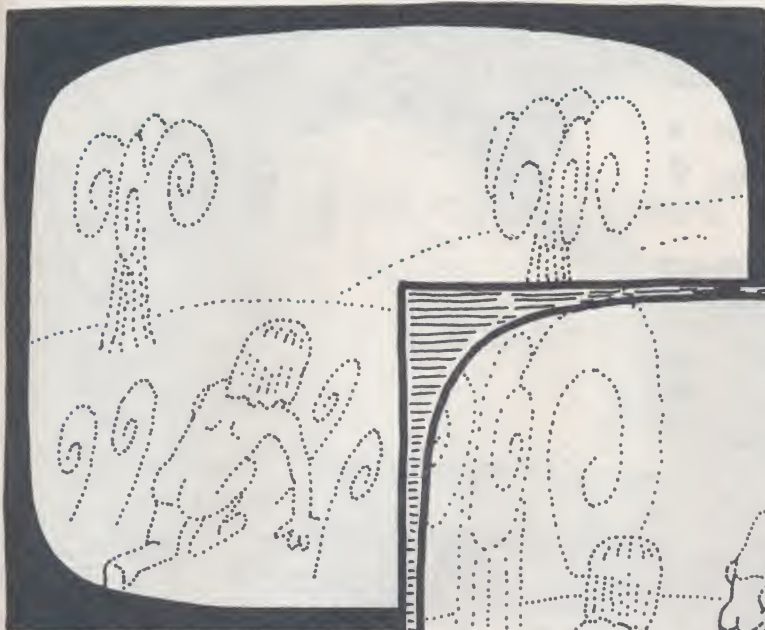
AS IF POSSESSED,  
ARNOLD DROVE HIMSELF,  
STAYING AT THE  
KEYBOARD DAY AND  
NIGHT, NOT STOPPING  
TO EAT OR SLEEP...



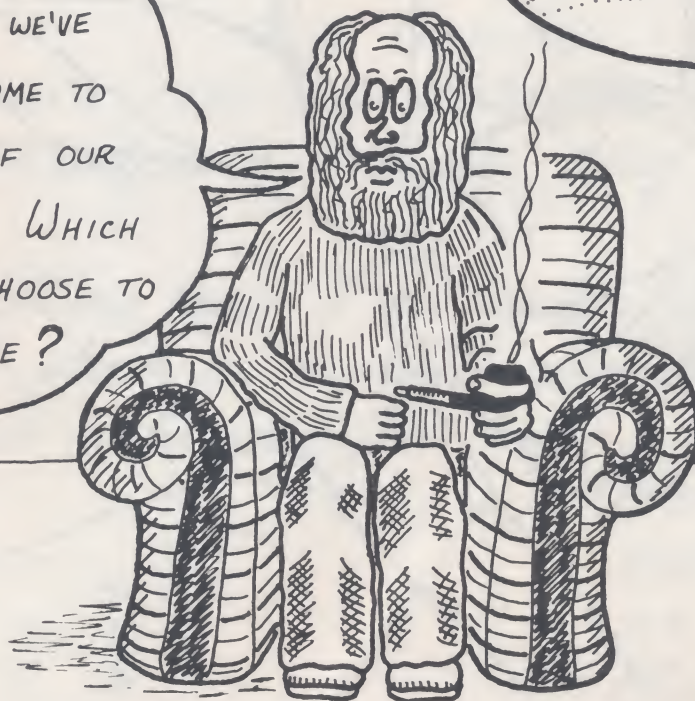




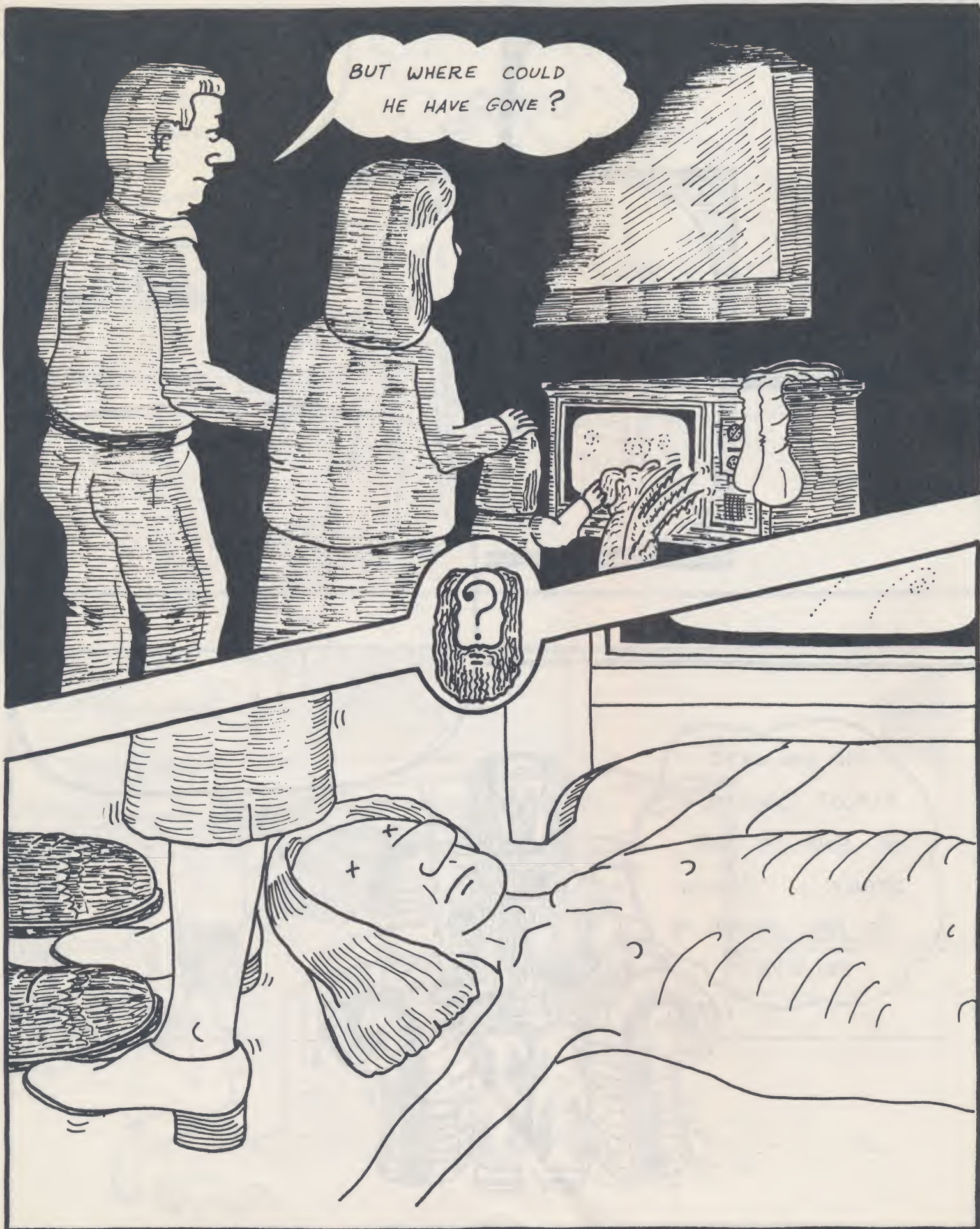




AND NOW WE'VE  
ALMOST COME TO  
THE ENDS OF OUR  
STORY... WHICH  
DO YOU CHOOSE TO  
BELIEVE?









*In case you haven't heard...*

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*MATRIX PUBLISHERS, INC.*

*207 Kenyon Road*

*Champaign, Illinois*

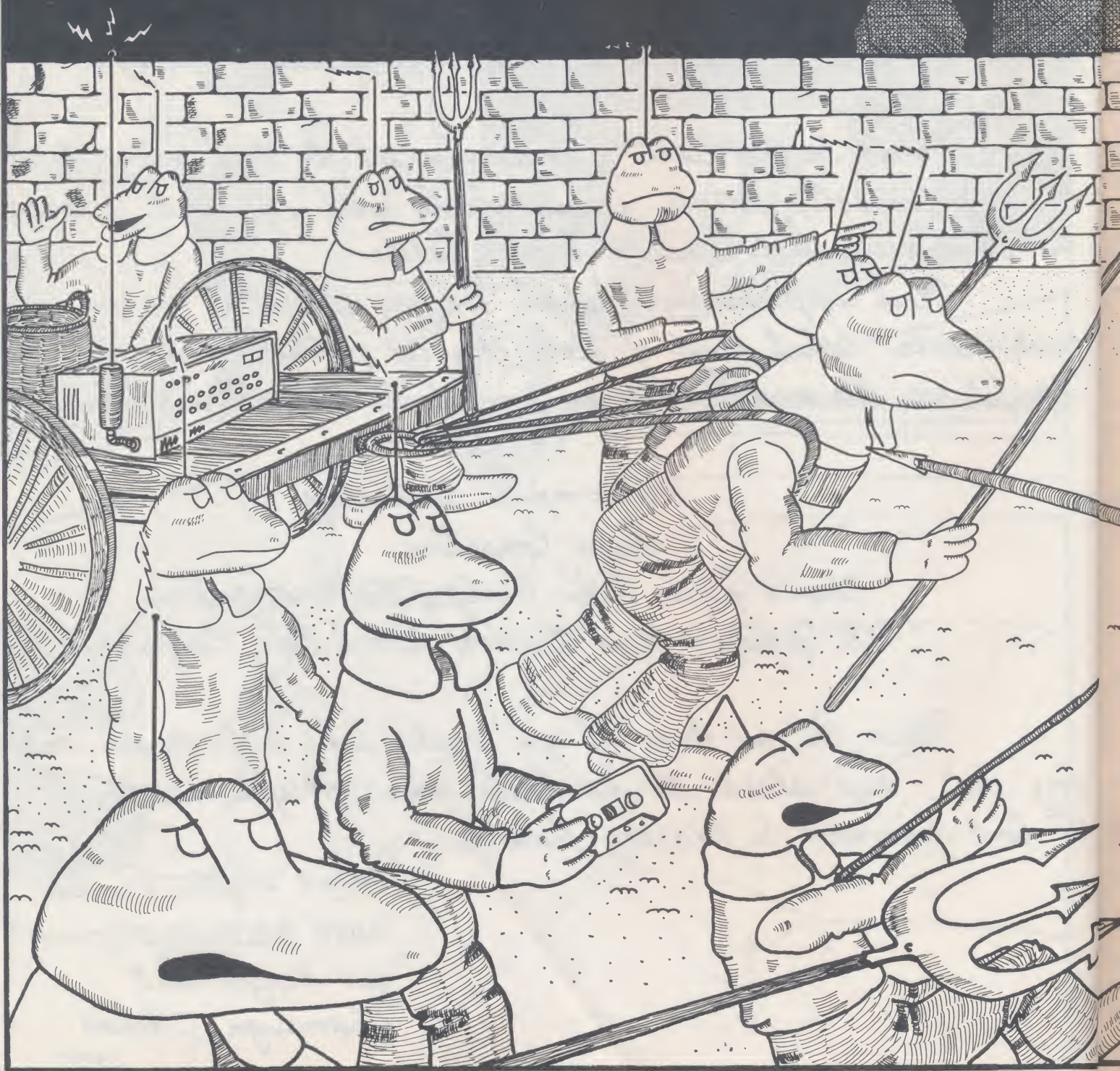
*61820*



Opposing

Computer

Manufacturers

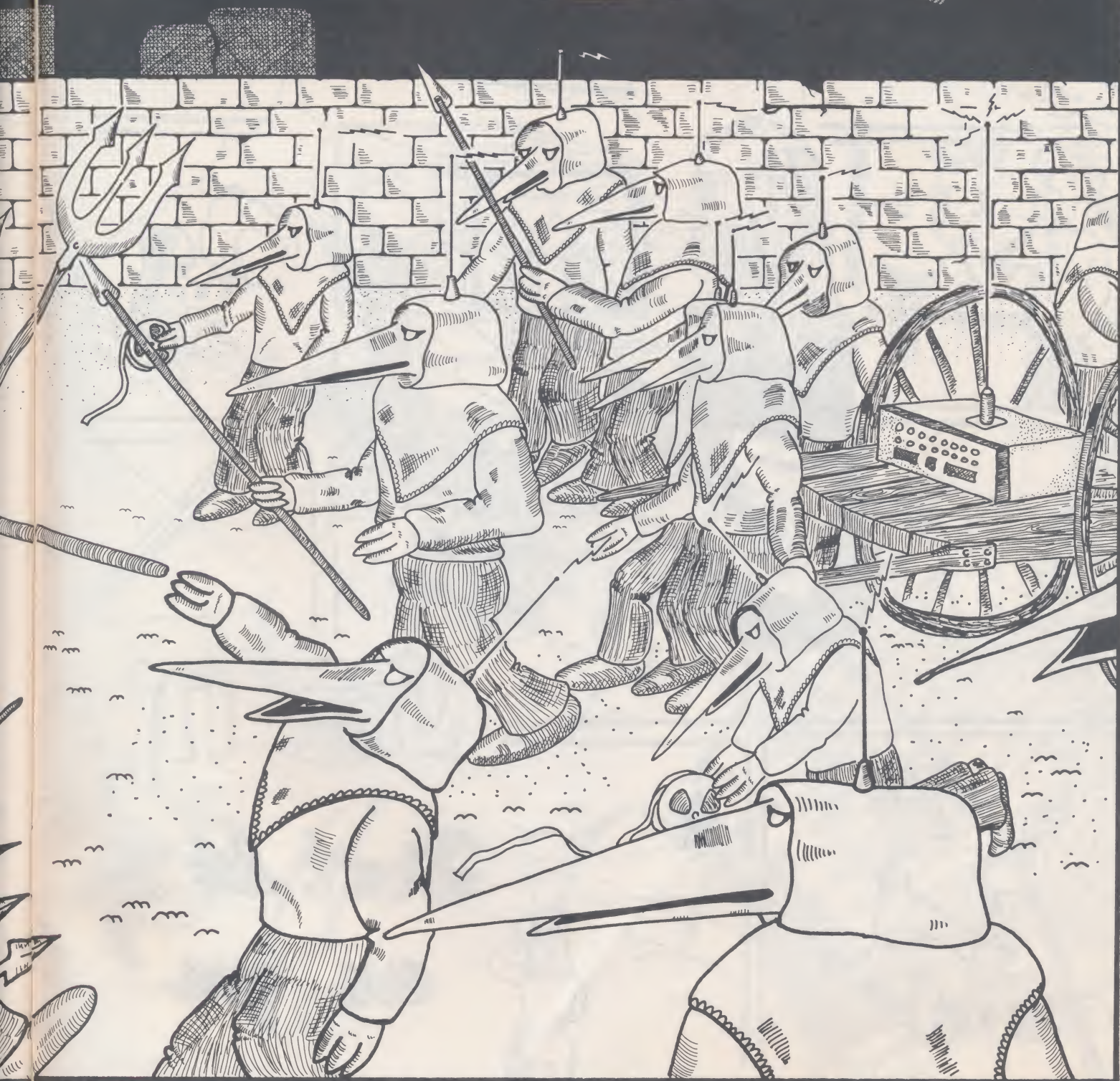




Struggle

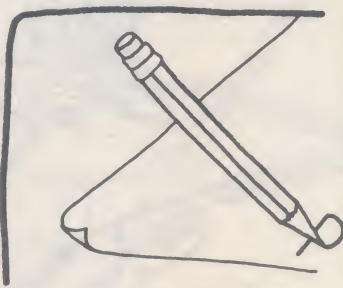
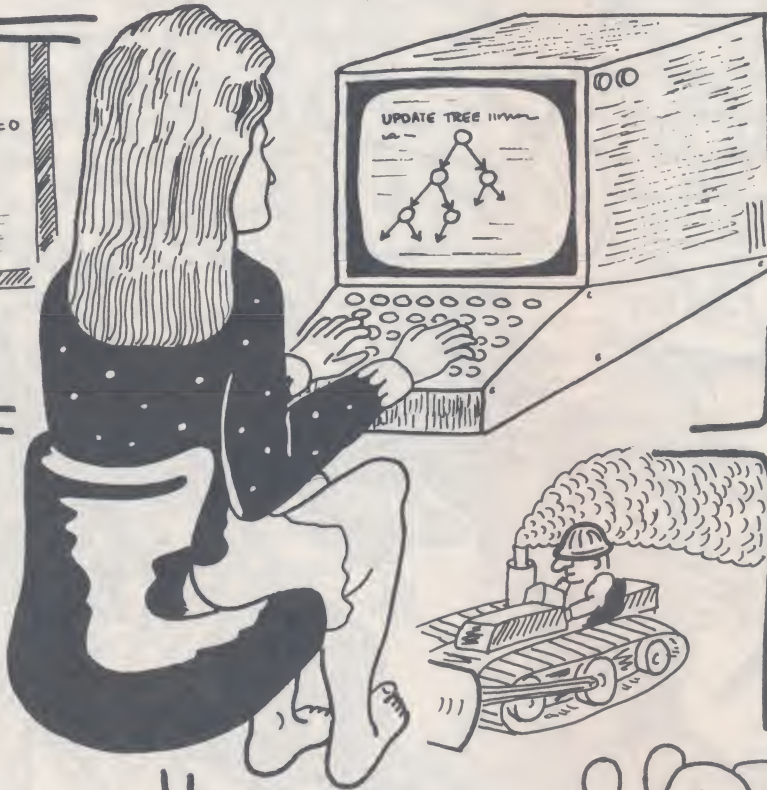
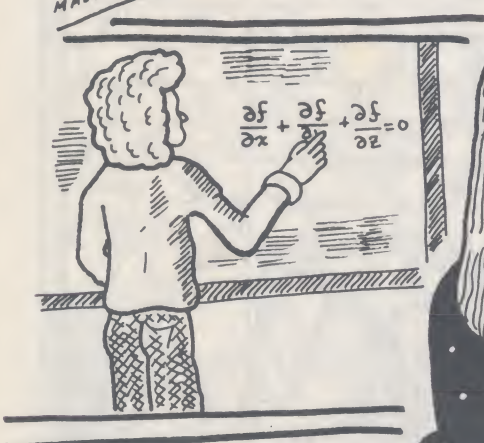
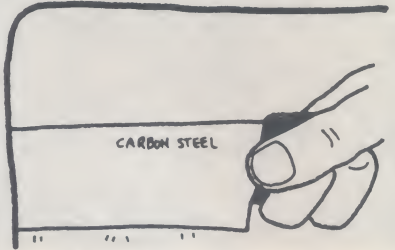
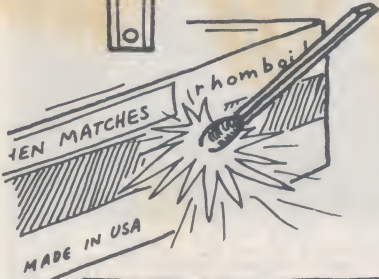
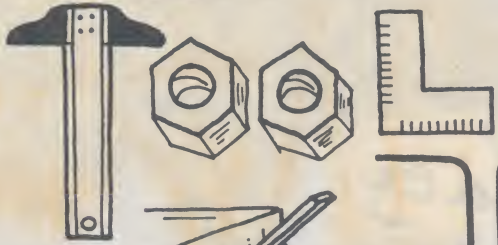
For Market

Supremacy





It's just another



USE IT



Don't let it use you!



**BACKUS**





```
FINITE STATE FANTASIES  
FINITE STATE FANTASIES  
FINITE STATE FANTASIES  
FINITE STATE FANTASIES  
FINITE STATE FANTASIES  
FINITE STATE FANTASIES  
FINITE STATE FANTASIES  
FINITE STATE FANTASI  
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FINITE STATE FAN  
FINITE STATE FA  
FINITE STATE F  
FINITE STATE  
FINITE STATE  
FINITE STAT  
FINITE STA  
FINITE ST  
FINITE S  
FINITE  
FINITE  
FINIT  
FINI  
FIN  
FI  
F
```

: BACK COVER  
S=0  
R=1 TO 50  
FOR C=0 TO S  
PRINT " ";  
NEXT C  
PRINT "FINITE STATE FANTASIES"  
LET S=S+1  
T R  
D

[illegible]